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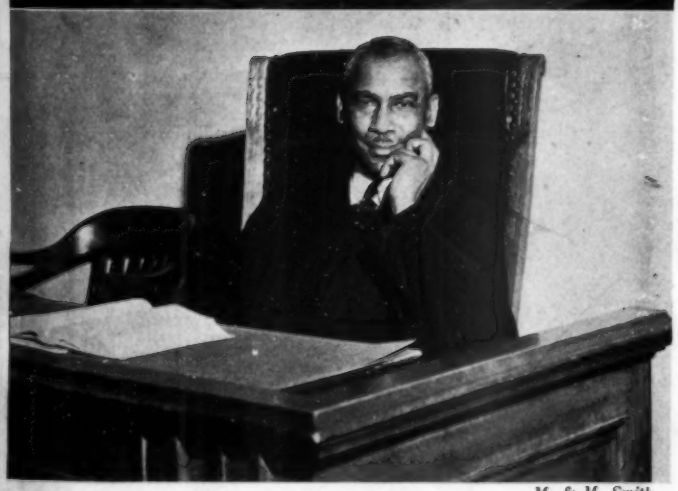

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NEW YORK JUDGES
Top to bottom: Charles E. Toney, Myles A. Paige, James S. Watson
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COLLEGE AND SCHOOL NEWS

Hampton Institute's anniversary address on May 28, was delivered by Dr. F. D. Patterson, president of Tuskegee Institute. The commencement address on May 29 was delivered by Dr. Rufus E. Clement, president of **Atlanta University.**

New trustees elected to the boards of **Morehouse College** and **Atlanta University** on April 28-29 were: Dr. Frank W. Padelford, executive secretary of the Bd. of Education of the Northern Baptist Convention; Ernest E. Quantrell of New York, a member of the Board of Trustees of the Univ. of Chicago, and Harry H. Pace, president of the Supreme Liberty Life Insurance Co. of Chicago. Dr. Padelford was also elected a member of the Spelman board.

Dr. Charles D. Hubert has been re-elected Acting President of **Morehouse College.**

For the first time Atlanta Univ. includes a graduate professional school, resulting from the affiliation of the university with the **Atlanta School of Social Work.** In June, Atlanta will award not only the degrees of master of arts and master of science, but also the degree of master of social work.

The commencement address at **Knoxville College** on June 9, will be delivered by Dr. Mary McLeod Bethune, Director of Negro Affairs of the National Youth Administration and President of Bethune-Cookman College. Fifty seniors will receive bachelor degrees.

Spelman College celebrated its 58th anniversary on April 11. The Founders Day address was delivered by Dr. Charles Whitney Gilkey, dean of the chapel and professor of preaching at the University of Chicago.

West Virginia State College celebrated its Founders Day on May 1, 2 and 3. Over 500 exhibits from various parts of the state were on display.

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Tuberculosis Workers will be held at **Howard University** School of Medicine, June 5, 6 and 7, during annual commencement week. Physicians engaged in tuberculosis are expected from all parts of the country.

At the annual meeting of the board of trustees on April 11, Dr. Ralph J. Bunche was granted a year's leave of absence to become an associate in the Carnegie Corporation's general study of the American Negro. Morris A. Raines was promoted to the rank of Professor of Botany. Seigfried Berliner of the University of Goettingen was appointed Professorial Lecturer in Commerce and Finance. Ernest L. Abrahamson, University of Prague, was appointed Instructor in Latin and Romance languages. George Morton Lightfoot, Professor of Latin, was retired as of June 30, 1939. Leon A. Ransom was advanced to Professor of Law. Bernard S. Jefferson was appointed Assistant Professor of Law, and James M. Nabrit was advanced to Associate Professor of Law.

Mr. Justin Carter was elected to membership for three years as Alumni Trustee.

The Ladies' Auxiliary of **Morgan College** has inaugurated a memorial book shower for the new library. Each person donating $5 for the purchase of a volume may designate some deceased relative or friend in whose memory the volume is given. Those interested in contributing are requested to communicate with Mrs. Sarah F. Diggs, 1909 Druid Hill Avenue, Baltimore, Md.

The ninth annual Saint Philip Hospital Postgraduate Clinic for Negro physicians will be held under the auspices of the **Medical College of Virginia,** June 12-25, according to Dr. Lee E. Sutton, Jr., dean of the school of Medicine. The work will be given in the St. Philip Hospital, as usual. A limited number of physicians will be admitted from other states than Virginia. The clinic is subsidized by the General Education Board of New York City, and is in its ninth year.

Commencement will be held at **Downingtown** school on June 15. Instead of a speaker there will be a pageant, dealing with vocational training and guidance, given by the students.

From April 15 to 18, **Ft. Valley N. and I. School** held its Second Annual Arts Festival. Hundreds of visitors came to the beautiful campus to hear the musical program and speeches on art. Edgar R. Clark organized the festival.

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In the April **Crisis** the name of the art instructor at **Bennett College** was given as Miss Eva K. Smith. The art instructor is Miss Eva K. Hamlin.

Recipients of recent Rosenwald and General Education Board scholarships are Miss Merze Tate, chairman of the division of social sciences, and Mrs. Theophile C. Taylor, business manager. Miss Tate will study at Radcliffe College while Mrs. Taylor will study this summer under Mr. Luther H. Foster, Virginia State College secretary.

The North Carolina State Annual Music Contest was held at **Hillside Park High School** and in the B. N. Duke Auditorium, Durham, N. C. Contest judges were Louis Finley, Benedict College; Henry Bruinsma, Duke University, and Louis V. Jones, Howard University.

Appearing at **Shaw University** recently were novelist Zora Neale Hurston and pianist Josephine Harreld. Former Shaw, president, William Stuart Nelson, now head of Dillard University delivered the baccalaureate sermon on May 28, on the occasion of Shaw's seventy-fourth commencement.

$1,000 has been given by Dr. Robert Tyler of Washington, D. C. to be used for the improvement of the library of the university. Some years ago Dr. Tyler gave $5,000 for the same purpose.

Storer College has purchased a new DeVry sound-on-film motion picture machine. Faculty and students cooperated in the purchase.

In a recent regional declamatory contest sponsored by Eagle Avenue School, Charles Town, W. Va., Elsie Saunders, Storer high school freshman, won second prize.

Dr. Charles S. Johnson of **Fisk University** has been elected first vice chairman of the Southern Sociological Society, nine of whose 400 members are Negroes.

The Fisk summer session opens June 15 for nine weeks. The three major units of work will be: Principals course, the Curriculum laboratory, and the Teacher-Librarian course. The enrollment will largely consist of teachers working toward the Master of Arts

(*Continued on page* 190)

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Volume 46, No. 6 *Whole No. 342*

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THE CRISIS *was founded in* 1910. *It is published monthly at 69 Fifth Avenue, New York, N. Y., by Crisis Publishing Company, Inc., and is the official organ of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People. The subscription price is* $1.50 *a year or* 15*c a copy. Foreign subscriptions* $1.75. *The date of expiration of each subscription is printed on the wrapper. When the subscription is due a blue renewal blank is enclosed. The address of a subscriber may be changed as often as desired, but both the old and new address must be given and two weeks' notice is necessary. Manuscripts and drawings relating to colored people are desired. They must be accompanied by return postage, and while* THE CRISIS *uses every care it assumes no responsibility for their safety in transit. Entered as second class matter November 2, 1910, at the post office at New York, N. Y., under the act of March 3, 1879, and additional second class entry at Albany, N. Y.*

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THE COVER

Judges Charles E. Toney and James S. Watson are justices in the municipal court of New York City. They were elected in 1930, on the Democratic ticket, for a ten-year term. Both have made excellent records, being well up on the list in the matter of reversals by higher courts. They sit in municipal courts all over Manhattan, rotating from one district to another and have two months vacation each year. Salary: $10,840.

Magistrate Myles A. Paige, a Republican, is one of the appointees of Mayor Fiorello H. LaGuardia. In New York the mayor appoints magistrates. The term is ten years. The salary is $10,000. Magistrate Paige's term expires May 1, 1945.

All the judges are married and Messrs. Paige and Watson have children. Messrs. Toney and Paige were born in Alabama and Judge Watson in the British West Indies.

NEXT MONTH

Using the Lane v. Wilson case, decided by the U.S. supreme court May 22, as a starting point, Thurgood Marshall of the NAACP legal staff, will offer an article in the July issue reviewing the twelve cases won by the NAACP before the highest court and pointing out the significance of the decisions to white as well as colored people.

●

The August issue will be the annual education number. Pictures, articles and school data intended for it should be in THE CRISIS office not later than July 3. We can use pictures of college graduates only. High school material is so voluminous we cannot possibly handle it.

OUR CONTRIBUTORS

Lewis K. Downing is dean of the college of engineering at Howard university, Washington, D. C.

●

Victor R. Daly is in one of the District of Columbia offices of the United States Employment Service.

●

Marita Bonner Occomy lives in Chicago and takes time out between attending to husband and babies to write short stories and plays of Negro life. Readers of THE CRISIS will remember her "Hate Is Nothing" in a recent issue. Later this year we expect to publish another of her stories, "Hongry Fire," perhaps in the September issue.

●

We think Morgan S. Smith, who made the cover pictures and the views of New York and New Yorkers deserves more than a credit line under the photos. Mr. Smith made that remarkably fine shot of Seventh avenue used as the cover of the May number. He has won prizes in a New York Herald Tribune contest and a national contest sponsored by daily newspapers. For a time he was on a Harlem weekly, but now is free lancing. We will have several more pages of his pictures in the July issue.

●

Augusta V. Jackson has written several articles for THE CRISIS on labor and youth problems. She moved recently from Richmond, Va., to Nashville, Tenn., keeping pace with her energetic young husband, Edward E. Strong.

Contributions of Negro Scientists

By Lewis K. Downing

IRON and steel together form the largest manufactured product common to civilized nations. Their use is basic to all industrial enterprises. Every day all of us come into contact with some one or more of its various forms, fashioned to serve our general or specific needs. Schweenfurth, Von Leuschan and P. A. Tolbert are among the archaeologists who hold to the belief that Africans discovered the art of iron working. Among others, there are those like Gowdland, who believe that iron working was invented by people of Western Asia. The oldest piece of wrought iron known in the world was found in Buhon in Northern Ethiopia, 1908, by Dr. Randall MacIver, Director of the Eckley B. Coxe Expedition, and is said to date from about 2000 B. C. According to Dr. Leo Hansberry, a young historian at Howard University and one of the foremost authorities on African History, the question still is inconclusive; the weight of evidence, however, would seem to point to Africa.

It is a fact that there are very few native people in Africa, even in its present day disordered state, who do not know how to smelt and manufacture iron and many of them steel. Iron was not a common product in Egypt until Egypt was conquered by the Ethiopians in 723 B. C.

At Lasta, Northern Abyssinia, there are to be found ten great churches hewn out of solid rock in the reign of Lalabela, King of Ethiopia, about the middle of the Thirteenth Century, A.D. The floor plan of one of these churches is not much different from that of some of our modern structures. Sir Wallace Budge, of the British Museum, has said that these are the most remarkable churches ever built in Christendom.

Part of a temple hewn out of rock with tools of steel and iron, in the reign of Taharka, King of Ethiopia, 688-663 B. C. still stands and is representative of highest scientific design and craftsmanship. Credit must be given to the Italians who, despite their ruthless conquest of Ethiopia, left preserved fully these ancient structures for the benefit of future civilizations. It may be interesting to note that at present there are more pyramids in Ethiopia than in Egypt.

Down through the ages we find Negro scientists, engineers, architects and technicians contributing their bit to the progress of the time. In our own country we have had a long list of notable men

Too often emphasis is laid upon the achievements of Negro men and women in the fine arts to the exclusion of the really distinguished records which have been made by Negro men in science. This article reviews briefly the work of Negroes in chemistry, engineering, architecture and other sciences. These records supply additional reason for the Negro American demanding his rightful place in the country which he has helped build, defend and improve

some of whose careers I will sketch briefly.

Benjamin Banneker, 1731-1806 mathematician and astronomer, is classed among the great scientists of the eighteenth century. Banneker constructed the first of all clocks made in America. This clock struck the hours of the day. It is said that he wrote a dissertation on bees and calculated the locust plague as recurrent in seventeen-year cycles. From 1791-1802 he published a series of almanacs which were recognized to be of highest precision. Banneker's work on the almanac was commended by Thomas Jefferson, and he was invited to assist the Commission sent to lay out the lines of the District of Columbia. The plan of our capital city, built on a development of the basic plans of that commission, has been placed in the top ranks of best planned cities on any continent.

Just, the Biologist

Ernest E. Just, head of the department of zoology, Howard university, long has been accorded international recognition as an outstanding zoologist. His major field of interest has been in the domain of experimental embryology. Dr. Just's experimentations have yielded invaluable information on the normality of the fertilization process, which information is used widely as a basis for similar studies in all laboratories where work of this nature is done. He is a distinguished cytologist and microscopist and has made many contributions to the field of cellular biology. The researches of Dr. Just are published widely in textbooks and scientific journals in America, Europe and Japan. In addition to his membership in principal scientific founder societies Dr. Just is a member of the editorial board of Physiological Zoology, Biological Bulletin and Journal of Morphology.

Hyman Y. Chase, assistant professor of zoology at Howard university, started as a student of Dr. Just. Dr. Chase's work in the field of the effect of radiant energy upon animal cells is regarded as a contribution of some significance and is a part of a large amount of experimentation which is being sponsored by the Rockefeller Foundation at present.

Thomas Wyatt Turner, botanist, head of the department of biology, Hampton Institute, was selected by the U. S. Department of Agriculture, 1918-19 to investigate certain plant phenomena at Presque Isle, Maine. His works on the effect of mineral nutrients upon seed plants, the physiological effects of nitrogen and of phosphorous upon plants, experiments in cotton breeding and other studies are to be found in most of the latest texts published, along the special line of plant nutrition, in Europe and America. Dr. Turner's efforts have been put forth mostly with the hope of bringing to Negro youth the methods of science and popularizing them. He is a member of the Virginia Conference of College Science Teachers, the Virginia Academy of Science, a Fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science and at present is assistant chairman of one of its local committees.

Charles Stewart Parker, botanist, head of the department of botany, Howard university, described a new sub-genus and section of the genus carex; he has discovered and described 39 species of plants, and is author of 60 papers. Dr. Parker worked out the life-history and control of a blight of stone fruits which, according to record, had cost the growers in the state of Washington $250,000 in loss of cherries alone, the year prior to the completion of Dr. Parker's work. In 1923-24 he served as plant pathologist for the western district of North Carolina as a "dollar a year man" under appointment of the U. S. Bureau of Plant Industry. A recent book, "The Flora of Southeastern Washington and Adjacent Idaho" by Dr. Harold St. John, describes thirty new plants collected by C. S. Parker and in the same book a new species of sweet pea, "Lathyrus Parkeri," and a new variety of Rosa Spaldingii, "Var. Parkeri," are named for him. Dr.

Parker was the only colored regimental adjutant in the A.E.F., serving as such with the 366th infantry.

Dr. Carver

George Washington Carver, Spingarn medalist, Fellow of the Royal Society of Arts of Great Britain, honorary member of the National Technical Association, was the first director of agricultural research at Tuskegee Institute. With limited facilities Dr. Carver has produced over three hundred products from the peanut, including woodstains, insulating boards, paper, plastics, meat substitutes, milk, buttermilk, hair oil, cheese, dyes, breakfast foods and ink. From the sweet potato he had produced one hundred eighteen products, including flour, syrup, fuel alcohol, starch and glue. From cotton Dr. Carver has produced rugs, paper, cordage, insulating boards and asphalt paving blocks. At present he is attracting worldwide attention with his experiments for rehabilitating infantile paralysis victims.

Dudley W. Woodard, professor of mathematics, Howard university, is author of "Practical Arithmetic," a text published by Tuskegee Institute. Dr. Woodard now is devoting himself exclusively to one of the unsolved problems of topology, namely, the characterization of the n-dimensional manifold. Four of his papers, published in the transactions of the American Mathematical Society, are steps in the solution of the main problem. Other of his papers have appeared in "Fundamenta Mathematicae," Warsaw, Poland, 1929, and in "School Science and Mathematics," 1911.

Elmer Samuel Imes, physicist, Fisk university, Fellow, 1916-18, University of Michigan, has served for many years in the capacity of consulting physicist and research engineer to leading industrial corporations of New York and elsewhere. Dr. Imes' studies in Infra-Red Absorption Bands have been quoted in authoritative works in the field of Atomic Structure and Spectral Lines.

Aids Packing Industry

Lloyd A. Hall, consulting chemist, is director of research for the Griffith Laboratories, the largest organization of its kind in the world which serves the meat packing industry with curing salts, condiments, spices and flavors, as well as other tenderizing ingredients.

Before Dr. Hall went to the Griffith Laboratories curing salts were a matter of chance; someone mixed together some sodium chloride with sodium nitrate and sodium nitrite. Dr. Hall prepared a successful combination of complex chemical salt which has proved to be the most satisfactory curing salt marketed in this country. It is so interesting that an X-ray taken of its crystal construction has been studied carefully for the past two or three years by such outstanding X-ray specialists as Dr. George Clark, professor of X-ray and of analytical chemistry, University of Illinois. According to Dr. Clark, Dr. Hall's curing salt is one of the greatest single contributions to the chemical industry.

Dr. Hall found that spices marketed into homes took with them millions of bacteria, having in them a million times the bacteria contained in other foodstuffs. He worked out and patented a method for preparing sterilized spices. The method consists of treating spices in certain special conditions with ethylene oxide. Introduction of sterilized spices to the meatpacking industry bids fair to revolutionize it. Dr. Hall has made the Griffith Laboratories a service laboratory to the food industry of the highest rank. These discoveries have not meant simply honor to the Griffith Laboratories but have made this concern one of the most prosperous of its kind in the world. During the World War Dr. Hall served as assistant chief inspector of explosives and research chemist, ordnance department, U. S. Army. He has some 25 U. S. and Canadian patents granted either as patentee or co-patentee, with some 15 applications pending.

Alloy Expert

James A. Parsons Jr., metallurgist, in charge of research and production in metallurgy, The Duriron Company, Dayton, O., is an authority on corrosion-resisting alloys. Mr. Parsons, winner of the Harmon Award in Science in 1927, is a past president of the National Technical Association. He holds patents on methods for the determination of the silicon content of iron alloys by electrical resistance, the strengthening of alloys of iron and silicon by the uses of alloys such as nickel, cobalt, vanadium, et cetera, and heat treatment methods for iron-silicon alloys containing molybdenum. These alloys are resistant to hydrochloric acid.

Mr. Parsons also holds patents on Austenitic alloy steels for corrosion resistance to sulphuric acid, nitric acid, sulphites, alkalies, and so forth. These materials now are being produced as casting in the case of iron-silicon alloys, and wrought articles, as well as castings in the Austenitic steels. Other works of Mr. Parsons include the development of melting technique for corrosion-resisting steels in the coreless high frequency electric furnace with special reference to slag making and deoxidation. Associated with Mr. Parsons on some of the work referred to is another brilliant young chemist, *Earl T. Ryder.* Mr. Ryder, a graduate of the University of Illinois, from 1922 to 1926 was chief chemist of the Champion Chemical Company of Springfield, Ohio, and since 1926 has served as Research Chemist at the Duriron Company.

Percy L. Julian, director of research with the Glidden company, Chicago, Illinois, former staff member of several leading American universities, has been placed in the top rank of the younger organic chemists of this country. His early work in corydalis has proved to be of great interest to phytochemists but his recent work on the structure and synthesis of physostigmine is considered by his fellows to be one of the greatest pieces of work done in that field yet.

Recent patents applied for by the Glidden Company in Dr. Julian's name deal with the isolation of pure protein from oleagenous seeds, with the preparation of plastic materials, with the preparation of cold water paints, and with the isolation, from soybean oil, of sterole from which the sex harmones are prepared readily. The researches of Dr. Julian, published 1931 to 1938 in the Journal of the American Chemical Society, Berichte, and Proceedings of the Indiana Academy of Science, have brought forth highest commendation from critics, officials, and members of these organizations.

Paint Plant Manager

Robert Percy Barnes, assistant professor of chemistry, Howard university, is engaged in research in synthetic organic chemistry. Dr. Barnes has published numerous studies on the behavior of Alpha-diketones and the relation of derived ene-diols of Vitamin C.

In 1935 *William G. Holly,* now chemist and plant superintendent of the Gypsy Paint and Varnish Company Incorporated, New York City, was successful in the formulation of a complete series of interior paints, using calcium Titanium pigment for the entire portion of these paints. Until that time, even the manufacturer of this particular pigment had found its use applicable only to flat finishes, and recommended it only for that purpose. The formulation was marketed under the label "Gypsy Titanium Gloss" and its acceptance by the painter public was immediate and remarkable. A recent survey by the Sherwin Williams Co. on all paints sold in the metropolitan New York market (omitting theirs) rated the Gypsy products as the finest in their class of all brands sold within the area. Other firms have followed this lead in the production of Titanium pigmented paints and today their sale is common universally.

William G. Haynes, assistant chief chemist, Union Pacific R.R., Omaha, Nebraska, has developed several pieces of apparatus for laboratory analysis of

materials used by that company. He has developed a new liquid for the preservation of railway ties and a treatment for the inside of redwood water tanks. Mr. Haynes recently has directed his attention to the development of a durable finish for streamline trains, which will withstand abrasion of air particles and dust resulting from the high speed of these trains.

Dennis A. Forbes, an American Man of Science, now professor of physical science at A. and I. State College, Nashville, Tennessee, for a period of over twenty-five years has been interpreting the mysteries of science and making them understandable to thousands of young men and women throughout the South. In 1934 Professor Forbes received a design patent on the shape of the card used in his chemistry game and now is perfecting a chemistry game which should serve greatly in attracting and developing scientific interest in young potential minds.

For more than thirty years *Paul E. Johnson Co.,* Chicago, Illinois, has manufactured therapeutical lamps and other scientific instruments of precision. The products of this company may be found in practically all leading hospitals, many medical schools and a large number of laboratories and professional offices in this country.

WILLIAM G. HOLLY
He perfected a gloss

Pistons for Fords

William W. Jason has been the leading spirit in the experimental development of the steel piston now used in the Ford motor cars. This piston compares favorably in weight and all other respects with the aluminum piston which it replaced and is much stronger.

Eugene J. Collins, also of the Ford Motor Co., developed the method of die casting now used by them in the making of valve cages and other small motor parts.

Claude Harvard, Ford Motor Company, developed a machine for the inspection of wrist pins for size, weight, finish and roundness. The machine, with one operator, does the work of ten or twelve hand inspectors and with a greatly increased degree of accuracy. Those who visited the Century of Progress will recall the demonstrations performed there by Mr. Harvard.

In the social sciences we find scholarly works and publications dealing with the American Negro by such well-known writers as *Dr. Alain Locke, Dr. Abram Harris, Dr. Charles H. Wesley* and *Dr. E. Franklin Frazier* of Howard university, *Dr. Charles S. Johnson* of Fisk university, and others. After several years of field work and study in East and West Africa, there recently returned to Howard university *Ralph J. Bunche.* Dr. Bunche proposes an international approach to the problems of the American Negro. It is his view that these problems are merely a part of a universal pattern which applies to minority groups and to non-European peoples throughout the entire world, rather than one peculiar to our own country. Dr. Bunche's studies in Africa related to (1) An analysis of the effect of colonial policy upon the life of native people; (2) the reaction of native people to the incidents of colonial policy, and (3) the parallels which may be drawn between problems of native peoples in Africa and the Dutch East Indies and the American Negro population.

The discoveries of the scientist would contribute little to progress and culture were there no engineers and technicians capable of converting scientific discoveries into useful service for men.

Engineers

Archibald A. Alexander, engineering contractor of Des Moines, Iowa, is known for his work in the construction of bridges, buildings and public utilities. The million dollar sewage treatment plant for the City of Grand Rapids, Michigan, built by Alexander, has operated continuously at a higher rate of efficiency than was anticipated by its designers.

Frederick Massiah, engineering contractor, Philadelphia, a Harmon prize winner in science, erected the concrete framework of a large apartment building of that city in record time. The Camden City postoffice is another of the many projects erected under the supervision of Mr. Massiah.

Samuel Plato, one of the earlier engineering contractors, has built structures of high merit in many sections of this country. Much of his work has been in connection with Federal construction projects.

Charles S. Duke, structural engineer, now with the U. S. Housing Authority, while project engineer under the U. S. Resettlement Administration organized the engineering construction staff which built some two hundred homes, community buildings, and utilities at Newport News, Virginia. This staff, composed entirely of young trained Negro engineers and technicians, with *C. V. Smith* as resident engineer, upon bringing the project to completion, were commended highly on their splendid service by Secretary of Agriculture Henry Wallace.

Erskine G. Roberts, assistant engineer, power division, U. S. Rural Electrification Administration, at present on leave of absence from the faculty of the school of engineering and architecture, Howard university, has made numerous firing studies in connection with institutional power plant operation. His papers have appeared in such journals as "Power Plant Engineering" and "Combustion."

Architects

It has been said that the progress and culture of a nation are reflected in its architecture. Considered by authorities to be one of the best designed libraries in this country is Founders' Library, Howard university, *Albert I. Cassell,* architect. Mr. Cassell is known widely for his educational structures, as well as other institutional buildings. It has developed into a Hollywood fad to have a home designed by *Paul R. Williams,* architect, Los Angeles, California. Langston Terrace, Washington, D. C., one of the first low rent housing projects built for Negroes, was designed under the direction of three associated architects, among them *Hilyard R. Robinson* and *Paul R. Williams.* Mr. Robinson is a housing consultant. Other prominent names in low cost multiple dwelling projects, residential or church architecture, are the architectural firm of *McKissack and McKissack,* Nashville, Tennessee, and *Julius M. Gardner,* Charleston, West Virginia; *Vertner M. Tandy,* New York City, *Louis A. Bellinger,* Pittsburgh, Pa., *Miller F. Whittaker,* now

(*Continued on page* 187)

Washington's Minority Problem

By Victor R. Daly

THE barring of Marian Anderson, famed Negro contralto, from Constitution Hall in Washington was a note heard 'round the nation. The first echo came back when Mrs. Roosevelt promptly resigned from the D.A.R., owners of the hall, in protest against this action of the Daughters of the American Revolution. When the local Board of Education also denied Miss Anderson the use of Central high school auditorium, music lovers and lovers of fair play throughout the city rose in protest and indignation, deluged the board with telegrams and petitions, and finally stormed a special meeting, more or less forcing the school board to rescind in part its previous action.

With its offer of the auditorium at this special meeting, the school authorities attached certain odious conditions which were unacceptable to the Howard university school of music, sponsors of the proposed concert. These conditions intimated that only because of the existence of an "emergency" was the board willing to depart from its time-honored dual system (white and Negro schools) long enough to allow a Negro artist to appear before a mixed audience in a white high school building; furthermore, said the board, the sponsoring committee must not consider this use of a white school by colored people as a precedent, and therefore, the sponsors must agree never again to make of the Board of Education a similar request. The school of music immediately rejected the terms offered by the board and prepared to carry the fight to Congress, which annually appropriates the money to run the District schools.

This controversy, reported daily through the Associated Press and other news chains, has attracted, to the chagrin of local authorities, the attention of the country as a whole to race relations in the nation's capital, where approximately one-third of the city's 600,000 population is Negro, and as one observer remarked, "the Harlem belt extends from the Eastern Branch to Rock Creek."

The presence of so large a proportion of colored people in a southern city so far north as Washington has created, *per se*, a series of problems and paradoxes. Clever local laws coupled with a widespread application of southern tradition, however, have served to minimize these problems and becloud the paradoxes. The colored population had been carefully lulled into a coma of complacency

The Marian Anderson incident brought into the spotlight the Jim Crow conditions in the nation's capital and stirred citizens to new action to secure their civil rights

and a sense of satisfaction with the *status quo*. Came the New Deal! Washington's Negro populace stirred restlessly in its artificial sleep. It awakened! It demanded a larger share of the more abundant life. And, lo, the capital of the nation was confronted with a minority problem.

Washingtonians on Top

Washington colored people, taken as a whole, fare better economically, socially and culturally than any large group of Negroes in the world. They own more property and automobiles per capita than in any similar community. They perhaps do not make the flashy showing that Negroes in New York and Chicago can make on occasion, but they are fundamentally more sound.

They have better jobs and more money in the savings banks and building associations. More of them travel abroad, more of their children go on to higher education, and their society is relatively free of the barnacles of "numbers bankers" and "policy kings" that infest the social life of Negroes in the larger cities. The 191 Negro physicians, 72 dentists, 98 lawyers and the dozen or so real estate men and architects enjoy a good practice and are well paid for their services. They have their own reading clubs, bar association and chamber of commerce. They entertain modestly but frequently—in their homes—for there is not much night club life as in other and gayer cities. Once or twice a year some exclusive group will hold an invitational ball, which is harder to "crash" than for the celebrated camel to make its way through the eye of the needle.

Negroes Defend Dual Schools

The Board of Education in its consideration of the Marian Anderson case gave itself an unnecessary case of the jitters over the alleged attack on the dual school system. When the dual system of education is finally abolished in Washington the white people will do it themselves, because of the waste, the inefficiency and the expense of duplication. They can count on very little help from the colored people of the city. As a matter of fact, the whites will have the fight of their lives on their hands.

The dual system is the economic backbone of the Negro in Washington. The whole system is a motif in black and white. At the head is a bi-racial board, six whites, three Negroes. Next comes the superintendent, white, of course, but under him comes an array of white assistant superintendents and matching them, Negro assistant superintendents, each one in charge of this and that and of the other, but all doing the same work over twice, once black, once white. Then there is a Negro board of examiners and a white board of examiners; a white normal college, a colored normal college; white and Negro high schools, with white and Negro principals; elementary schools, black and white; teachers, black and white, and so on and on *ad infinitum*. Thus the white man's fear of the mixed school gives employment to about 1,250 Negroes in the dual system at annual salaries ranging from $1,440 to approximately $5,000.

There is no official segregation in Washington's transportation system, although the bus company has devised a clever ruse to run non-stop express buses through the thickly populated Negro districts. These buses pick up a load or just one or two white patrons in the outlying white neighborhoods and whisk them straight down town and vice versa, stopping only for traffic lights. It is probably the only "express" line in the country where there are no "locals," and is undoubtedly one reason why Washingtonians pay a ten cent fare.

All of the public recreational facilities are segregated, playgrounds, tennis courts, swimming pools and golf courses. Even in the Rock Creek Park picnic area the color line is drawn, although no signs are displayed. This is done by the deft use of picnic permits, all Negro activities being confined to a single section. Some years ago a tactless park official erected in Rock Creek Park a number of signs, segregating certain areas for the use of colored people. Such a storm of protest greeted these signs that they were hurriedly removed, but although the policy was continued without the signs, the protests died away.

The most popular public bathing beach that the District has ever had was voluntarily abandoned some years ago when the late, powerful Congressman Martin B. Madden, chairman of the House Appropriations Committee, intimated that funds for the maintenance of this beach were given to the people of the District by Congress without regard to race or color. This bathing spot was ideally located along the shores of the Tidal Basin and shaded by the famous Japanese cherry trees, symbols of international and interracial good-will. But the beach was hastily abolished, neverthless. Ironically, only a quarter of a mile away, in the same park, Negroes played golf on a "Jim Crow" course and white folks teed off on a links of their own.

Government Jobs at Minimum

Until the advent of the New Deal the employment of Negroes in the government departments had steadily declined in proportion to the total number employed. With the exception of printer's helpers in the Bureau of Engraving, and skilled laborers in the Government Printing Office, colored people were not employed anywhere in large numbers. The Recorder of Deeds office gave a few jobs to junior clerks and copyists. The Veterans Administration, the Navy Department and a few other old line agencies still had a section or two staffed by a few dozen Negro clerks. But by far the majority of Negroes working in the departments were messengers at $1,080 to $1,260 per annum. Not a federal judge in the District courts from the supreme bench down but had his personal colored messenger, to hold his chair for him as he mounted the platform at the opening of court, to bring his glass of water, and then to seat himself at a respectful distance, ready at a moment's notice to jump at Hizzoner's bidding. The judges liked all this. It flattered the ego. Hundreds of well-trained and qualified Negroes passed civil service examinations every year, but with the exception of the city postal service very few of them were ever appointed to the better paying positions in the government.

But with the advent of the New Deal this whole picture is rapidly changing. Fewer Negro politicians have been appointed to fat, but temporary, jobs. More and more qualified persons, however, have been placed in permanent, worthwhile positions in the federal service. Especially is this true in the public welfare agencies where large numbers of Negroes are affected by the functions of the organization.

No Civil Rights

Civil rights for the Negro in Washington—the plain, ordinary, garden variety of fundamental American rights—just do not exist. These are the rights and privileges commonly misnamed social equality, that well-known "red herring." Colored people in the nation's capital are denied the right to attend any theater in the city except their own neighborhood movie houses. They cannot eat in any public restaurant that is used by whites, with the possible exception of the cafeterias in a few of the government buildings. And for a colored person to apply for accommodation at any local hotel would be just cause for his confinement at St. Elizabeth, government hospital for the insane.

These civil rights have not been abolished by statute, but by tradition. It will require a very stringent civil rights law, protected by a good set of teeth, to restore these privileges and liberties to the colored people of Washington. Such a law would have to be enacted by Congress, since that august body makes all the laws that govern the District. With its present heavy quota of southerners, especially in the key committee chairmanships, such a bill would stand absolutely no chance of enactment.

In most cities, even in the far South, matters of policy concerning the two races are adjusted by what is known as an interracial committee made up of a group of liberal (for the South), outstanding, white citizens and a few locally prominent, but not too radical Negroes. Such a committee has operated unofficially in Washington for a number of years, but mild, dignified and unavailing protest seemed to be its measure of achievement.

A New Deal

With the coming of the New Deal to the capital, however, a spirit of revolt against the *status quo* has been manifest. A new sort of interracial alliance has sprung into being. Negroes and whites mix freely in the new C.I.O. unions that have invaded the government departments, especially the New Deal agencies. White and colored serve together on labor committees and battle along on a common front. Racial lines are broken down.

The "C.I.O. Night" at the National theatre for "Pins and Needles" saw that stronghold of segregation occupied by a heavily mixed audience of friendly, enthusiastic people. The New Negro Alliance, a local organization, backed by both racial groups, has waged a successful fight against two grocery store chains forcing them to hire colored clerks for stores operating in Negro neighborhoods. One of these cases was fought through the United States Supreme Court when the chain store obtained an injunction in the local courts against the picketing. In this case, argued by a young Negro lawyer, New Deal Justice Black asked some very pointed and embarrassing questions of the attorney who represented the stores. The Alliance is now engaged in a similar struggle with a drug chain. These stores have been picketed night and day for nearly a year. Hundreds of whites have lent their support by refusing to cross the picket lines.

Negroes and whites united in the fight to lift the Spanish embargo, and the Washington chapter of the Friends of Spanish Democracy was generously supported by the colored people. Another highly significant development in race relations has been the admission of Negro students to Catholic university and American university in the last two years.

By far and large, however, the greatest concerted bi-racial movement in the history of the city was engendered by the Marian Anderson exclusion incident. It was like a spark that ignited the whole city. The mixed committee in charge of the protest say that they will not dissolve after the present incident has been adjusted, but will fight on until the causes have been removed. If that be the case there is no telling when or where the committee will stop. With conditions in Europe as they are to-day, the continued oppression of any minority group is an extremely unpopular pastime. This new interracial committee in the capital could not have chosen a more propitious time to launch its campaign.

When Washingtonians are granted suffrage the Negro will get his civil rights the next day. That is one reason why the people in the capital do not vote now. White citizens realize this fact. Yet the almost unanimous sentiment in the District for suffrage, as expressed in last year's straw balloting, is a fine tribute to the man-in-the-street. This sentiment is a clear refutation to those who segregate and deny the colored man his rights on the grounds that the public wants it.

However, until such time as the city is enfranchised, the only course left open to the Washington Negro in his quest for civil liberty is to further arouse public opinion by aligning himself with those movements and organizations and individuals that stand for human rights no matter where they are threatened. He has got to build up his own case at the bar of social justice. Finally, he will have to turn the merciless light of publicity upon the petty officials and bureaucrats that deny him his God-given rights to be a man in a free country.

N.A.A.C.P. CONFERENCE

Richmond, Va., June 27—July 2

Prepare to Attend!

The Whipping

By Marita Bonner

THE matron picked up her coat. It was a good coat made of heavy men's wear wool and lined with fur. She always liked to let her hands trail fondly over it whenever she was going to put it on (the way women do who are used to nothing).

She shook it out and shrugged her shoulders into it.

"I'll be back home again in time for dinner!" She smiled at the warden as she talked. "Helga will have 'peasant-girl,' for dessert, too!"

The hard lines that creased around the man's eyes softened a little. "Peasant-girl-with-a-veil! Ah, my mother could make that! Real home-made jam, yellow cream!—good! Nothing here ever tastes as good as it did back in the old country, I tell you!"

The woman balanced her weight on the balls of her feet and drew on one of her leather driving gloves. Through the window she saw her car, nicely trimmed and compactly modern, awaiting her. Beyond the car was a November sky, dismal, darkening and melancholy as the walls that bounded the surrounding acres of land which belonged to the Women's Reformatory.

At the end of her drive of thirty-five miles back to the city again, she would go to her apartment that—through warmth of color and all the right uses of the best comforts—seemed to be full of sunshine on the darkest days. She looked down, now, as she stood near the warden and saw her right hand freshly manicured.

Her mother's hands back in the stone kitchen with the open hearth found in every peasant home in Denmark, had always been grey and chapped with blackened nails this time of year. No woman who has to carry wood and coal from a frozen yard can have soft clean hands.

The thought made the matron shrug again. "I like things as they are here—but it would be good to go home some day to visit!"

She hurried a little toward the door now. Nobody lingers in the impersonal greyness of an institution whose very air is heavy with fierce anger and anguish and sorrow, buried and dulled under an angry restraint just as fierce and sorrowful.

She had nearly reached the door before she remembered the colored woman sitting alone on the edge of the bench beside the window. The matron had just driven up from the city to bring the woman on the bench to stay at the Reformatory as long as she should live.

In Mississippi there was a plantation, poverty and misery. In Chicago it seemed little different to Lizabeth

She had killed her little boy.

The judge and the social worker said she had killed him.

But she had told the matron over and over again that she did not do it.

You could never tell, though. It is best to leave these things alone.

"Good bye, 'Lizabeth!" the matron called in a loud voice. She meant to leave a cheerful note but she only spoke overloud. "Be a good girl!"

"Yes'm!" Lizabeth answered softly. "Yas'm!"

And the women separated. One went out to the light. The other looked at the grey walls—dark—and growing darker in the winter sunset.

EVERYTHING had been grey around Lizabeth most all of her life. The two-room hut with a ragged lean-to down on Mr. Davey's place in Mississippi where she had lived before she came North—had been grey.

She and Pa and Ma and Bella and John used to get up when the morning was still grey and work the cotton until the greyness of evening stopped them.

"God knows I'm sick of this!" Pa had cursed suddenly one day.

Ma did not say anything. She was glad that they had sugar once in a while from the commissary and not just molasses like they said you got over at McLaren's place.

Pa cursed a lot that day and kept muttering to himself. One morning when they got up to go to work the cotton, Pa was not there.

"He say he goin' North to work!" Ma explained when she could stop her crying.

Mr. Davey said Pa had left a big bill at the commissary and that Ma and the children would have to work twice as hard to pay it up.

There were not any more hours in any one day than those from sun-up to sundown, no way you could figure it.

The Christmas after Pa left, Mr. Davey said Ma owed three times as much and that she could not have any flannel for John's chest to cover the place where the misery stayed each winter.

That was the day Ma decided to go North and see if she could find Pa.

They had to plan it all carefully. There was no money to go from Mississippi northward on the train.

John had to get an awful attack of the misery first. Then Bella had to stay home to take care of him.

The day Mr. Davey's man came to find out why Bella and Jim were not in the field, Bella had her hand tied up in a blood soaked rag and she was crying.

The axe had slipped and cut her hand, she told them.

That meant Ma would have to wait on Bella and John.

Lizabeth worked the cotton by herself and the Saturday after Ma laid off, Mr. Davey would not let them have any fat back.

"Y'all can make it on meal and molasses until you work off your debts!" he told Lizabeth.

Ma had said nothing when Lizabeth had told her about the fat back. She had sat still a long time. Then she got up and mixed up some meal.

"What you makin' so much bread to oncet?" Bella asked Ma.

"Gainst our gittin' hungry!"

"Can't eat all that bread one time!" John blared forth. "Better save some 'cause you might not git no meal next time! We owe so much!"

"Heish, boy!!" Ma screamed so you could hear her half across the field. "I aint owe nobody nuthin!"

Lizabeth's jaw dropped. "Mr. Davey, he say—!"

"Heish, gal!" Ma screamed again. "I aint owe nuthin, I say! Been right here workin' nigh on forty years!"

She turned the last scrap of meal into a pan. Then she stood up and looked around the table at three pairs of wide-stretched eyes.

"I'm fixin' this 'gainst we git hungry! We goin North to find Pa tonight!"

YOU would not believe that three women and a half-grown boy could get to Federal street, Chicago from Mississippi without a cent of money to start with.

They walked—they begged rides—they stopped in towns, worked a little and they rode as far as they could on the train for what they had earned. It took months, but they found Federal street.

But they never found Pa.

They found colored people who had worked the cotton just like they themselves had done, but these others were from Alabama and Georgia and parts of Mississippi that they had never seen.

They found the houses on Federal street were just as grey, just as bare of color and comfort as the hut they had left in Mississippi.

But you could get jobs and earn real money and buy all sorts of things for a little down and a little a week! You could eat what you could afford to buy—and if you could not pay cash, the grocer would put you on the book.

Ma was dazed.

John forgot the misery.

Bella and Lizabeth were looping wider and wider in new circles of joy.

Ma could forget Pa, who was lost, and the hard trip up from the South when she screamed and shouted and got happy in robust leather-lunged style in her store-front church run in the "down-home" tempo.

John spent every cent that he could lay a hand on on a swell outfit, thirty dollars from skin out and from shoes to hat!

Bella's circles of joy spread wider and wider until she took to hanging out with girls who lived "out South" in kitchenettes.

She straightened her hair at first.

Then she curled her hair. After that she "sassed" Ma. Said she was going to get a job in a tavern and stay "out South" too!

They heard she was married.

They heard she was not.

Anyway, she did not come back to 31st and Federal.

John's swell outfit wasn't thick enough to keep the lake winds from his misery. He began to have chills and night sweats. The Sunday he coughed blood, Lizabeth got a doctor from State street.

The doctor made Ma send John to the hospital.

"He be all right soon?" Ma asked after the ambulance had gone.

The doctor looked grim. "I doubt if they can arrest it!"

"Arrest it! Arrest what? John's a good boy! He aint done nothing to git arrested!"

The doctor looked grimmer. "I mean that maybe they can't stop this blood from coming!"

Ma looked a little afraid. "Well, if they jes' gives him a tablespoon of salt that will stop any bleeding! My mother always ——"

The doctor put his hat on and went out. He did not listen to hear any more.

The second fall that they were on Federal street, Lizabeth met Benny, a soft-voiced boy from Georgia.

Benny said he was lonely for a girl who did not want him to spend all his money on liquor and things for her every time he took her out. That is what these city girls all seemed to want.

They wanted men to buy things for them that no decent girl down home would accept from men.

Lizabeth was glad for just a ten-cent movie and a bottle of pop or a nickel bag of peanuts.

They were married at Christmas. The next year, in October, baby Benny came.

In November John died.

In February of the second year Benny —who had begun to go "out South" in the evening with the boys—suddenly stayed away all night.

Ma had hysterics in the police station and told the police to find him.

"He may be dead and run over somewhere!" she kept crying.

The policemen took their time. Ma went every day to find out if there were any news. Lizabeth went too!

She stopped going after she saw the policeman at the desk wink at another when he told her; "Sure! Sure! We are looking for him every day!"

Mrs. Rhone who kept the corner store asked Lizabeth one morning, "Where's your man? Left you?"

Lizabeth bridled: "He was none of these men! He was my husband!"

The other woman probed deeper: "Who married you? That feller 'round to the store front church? Say! Hee-hee! They tell me he ain't no reglar preacher! Any feller what'll slip him a couple of dollars can get 'married'—even if he's got a wife and ten kids "out South," they tell me ——!"

Lizabeth shrank back. Benny had been truly married to her!!

This woman just did not have any shame!

But after that Lizabeth grew sensitive if she went on the street and saw the women standing together in gossiping groups.

"They talkin' about me! They saying I weren't married!" she would tell herself.

She and ma moved away.

The place where they moved was worse than Federal street. Folks fought and cursed and cut and killed down in the Twenties in those days.

But rent was cheap.

Elizabeth only got twelve dollars a week scrubbing all night in a theatre.

Ma kept little Benny and took care of the house.

There was not much money, but Lizabeth would go without enough to eat and to wear so that little Benny could have good clothes and toys that she really could not afford.

"Every time you pass the store you 'bout buy this boy somethin'!" the grandmother complained once.

"Aw I'd a liked pretty clothes and all that stuff when I was a kid!" Lizabeth answered.

"How she buy so much stuff and just *she* workin'!" the neighbors argued among themselves.

"She must be livin' wrong!" declared those who could understand all the fruits of wrong living in all its multiple forms.

Little Benny grew to expect all the best of things for himself. He learned to whine and cry for things and Lizabeth would manage them somehow.

He was six years old in 1929.

That was the year when Lizabeth could find no more theaters to scrub in and there were no more day's work jobs nor factory jobs. Folks said the rich people had tied up all the money so all the poor people had to go to the relief station.

Lizabeth walked fifteen blocks one winter day to a relief station. She told the worker that there was no coal, no food, the water was frozen and the pipes had bursted.

"We'll send an investigator," the worker promised.

"When'll that come?" Lizabeth demanded vaguely.

"*She* will come shortly! In a few days, I hope!"

"I got nothin' for Ma and Benny to eat today!" Lizabeth began to explain all over again.

"I'm sorry! That is all we can do now!" the woman behind the desk began to get red as she spoke this time.

"But Benny ain't had no dinner and ——"

"Next!" The woman was crimson as she called the next client.

The client—a stout colored woman—elbowed Lizabeth out of the way.

Already dazed with hunger and bone-weary from her freezing walk, Lizabeth stumbled.

"She's drunk!" the client muttered apologetically to the woman behind the desk.

Lizabeth had had enough. She brought her left hand up in a good old-fashioned back-hand wallop.

Everybody screamed. "They're fighting!"

"Look out for a knife!" yelled the woman behind the desk.

Her books had all told her that colored women carried knives.

A policeman came and took Lizabeth away.

They kept Lizabeth all night that night. The next day they said she could go home but it was the third day that they finally set her on the sidewalk and told her to go home.

Home was thirty blocks away this time.

"Where you been, gal!" Ma screamed as soon as the door opened. "You the las' chile I got and now you start actin' like that Bella! Ain't no food in this

house! Aint a God's bit of fire 'cept one box I busted up—!"

"She busted up my boat! She busted up the box what I play boat in!" Benny added his scream to the confusion. "She make me stay in bed all the time! My stomach hurts me!"

Lizabeth was dizzy. "Aint nobody been here?" She wanted to wait a little before she told ma that she had been in the lock-up.

"Nobody been here? For what?"

"Get us some somepin' to eat! That's what the woman said!"

"No, ain't nobody been here!"

Lizabeth put on her hat again.

"Where you goin' now?" Ma shouted.

"I got to go back."

"You got to go back where?"

"See 'bout some somethin' to eat, Ma!"

Benny began to scream and jumped out of the bed. "You stay with me!" he cried as he ran to his mother. "I want my dinner! I ——"

"Heish!" Lizabeth out-screamed everyone else in the room.

Frightened, Benny cowed away a little. Then he began again. "I want to eat! The lady downstairs, she say my mother ought to get me something' 'stead of stayin' out all night with men!"

Lizabeth stared wildly at her mother.

Hostile accusation bristled in her eyes, too.

"That's what the lady say. She say—" Benny repeated.

And Lizabeth who had never struck Benny in her life, stood up and slapped him to the floor.

As he fell, the child's head struck the iron bedstead.

His grandmother picked him up, still whimpering.

Lizabeth went out without looking back.

Fifteen blocks put a stitch in her left side. Anger made her eyes red.

The woman behind the desk at the relief station paled when she saw Elizabeth this time. "You will have to wait!" she chattered nervously before Lizabeth had even spoken.

"Wait for what? Been waitin! Nobody been there!"

"We are over-crowded now! It will take ten days to two weeks before our relief workers can get there!"

"What's Ma and little Benny going to do all that time? They gotta eat!"

The other woman grew eloquent. "There are hundreds and hundreds of people just like you waiting ——!"

"Well I stop waitin'! Bennie got to eat!"

Fifteen blocks had put a stitch in her side. Worry and hunger made her head swim. Lizabeth put one hand to her side and wavered against the desk.

This time the woman behind the desk *knew* that Lizabeth had a knife—for her alone! Her chair turned over as she shot up from the desk. Her cries brought the policeman from the next corner.

"We better keep you for thirty days," the police court told Lizabeth when they saw her again.

"But little Benny—!" Lizabeth began crying aloud.

There was a bustle and commotion. A thin pale woman pushed her way up to the desk.

Lizabeth had to draw back. She stood panting, glaring at the judge.

He had been looking at her at first in tolerant amusement. But while this pale woman talked to him across his desk, cold, dreadful anger surged into his eyes.

"What's that you're saying about little Benny?" he demanded suddenly of Lizabeth. "He's dead!"

Lizabeth could not speak nor move at first. Then she cried out. "What happen to him? What happen to my baby?"

"You killed him." The judge was harsh.

A bailiff had to pick Lizabeth up off of the floor and stand her up again so the judge could finish. "You whipped him to death!"

"I ain't never whip him! I aint never whip little Benny!" Lizabeth cried over and over.

They took her away and kept her.

They kept her all the time that they were burying Benny, even. Said she was not fit to see him again.

Later—in court—Ma said that Lizabeth had "whipped Benny's head" the last time she was at home.

"I aint hit him but once!" Lizabeth tried to cry it to the judge's ears. "He didn't have nuthin to eat for a long time! That was the trouble."

"There was a deep gash on his head," testified the relief worker. "She was brutal!"

"She brought knives to the relief station and tried to start a fight every time she came there!"

"She's been arrested twice!"

"Bad character! Keep her!" the court decided.

THAT was why the matron had had to drive Lizabeth to the Woman's Reformatory.

She had gone out now to her car. Lizabeth watched her climb into it and whirl around once before she drove away.

"Won't see her no more! She's kinder nice, too," Lizabeth thought.

"It is time for supper! Come this way!" the warden spoke suddenly.

Lizabeth stumbled to her feet and followed him down a long narrow hall lit with one small light.

That relief worker had said she would see that Ma got something to eat.

That seemed to settle itself as soon as they had decided they would send her to this place.

"You will work from dawn to sundown," the matron had said as they were driving up from the city.

She had always done that in Mississippi.

It did not matter here. But she asked one question. "They got a commissary there?"

"A commissary!" The matron was struck breathless when Lizabeth asked this. She had decided that Lizabeth was not normal. She had seemed too stupid to defend herself in court. "She must be interested in food!" the matron had decided to herself.

A slight sneer was on her face when she answered, "Of course they have a commissary! You get your food there!"

Lizabeth had drawn back into her corner and said nothing more.

A commissary. She understood a commissary. The same grey hopeless drudge—the same long unending row to hoe—lay before her.

The same debt, year in, year out.

How long had they said she had to stay?

As long as she lived. And she was only thirty now.

But she understood a commissary and a debt that grew and grew while you worked to pay it off. And she would never be able to pay for little Benny.

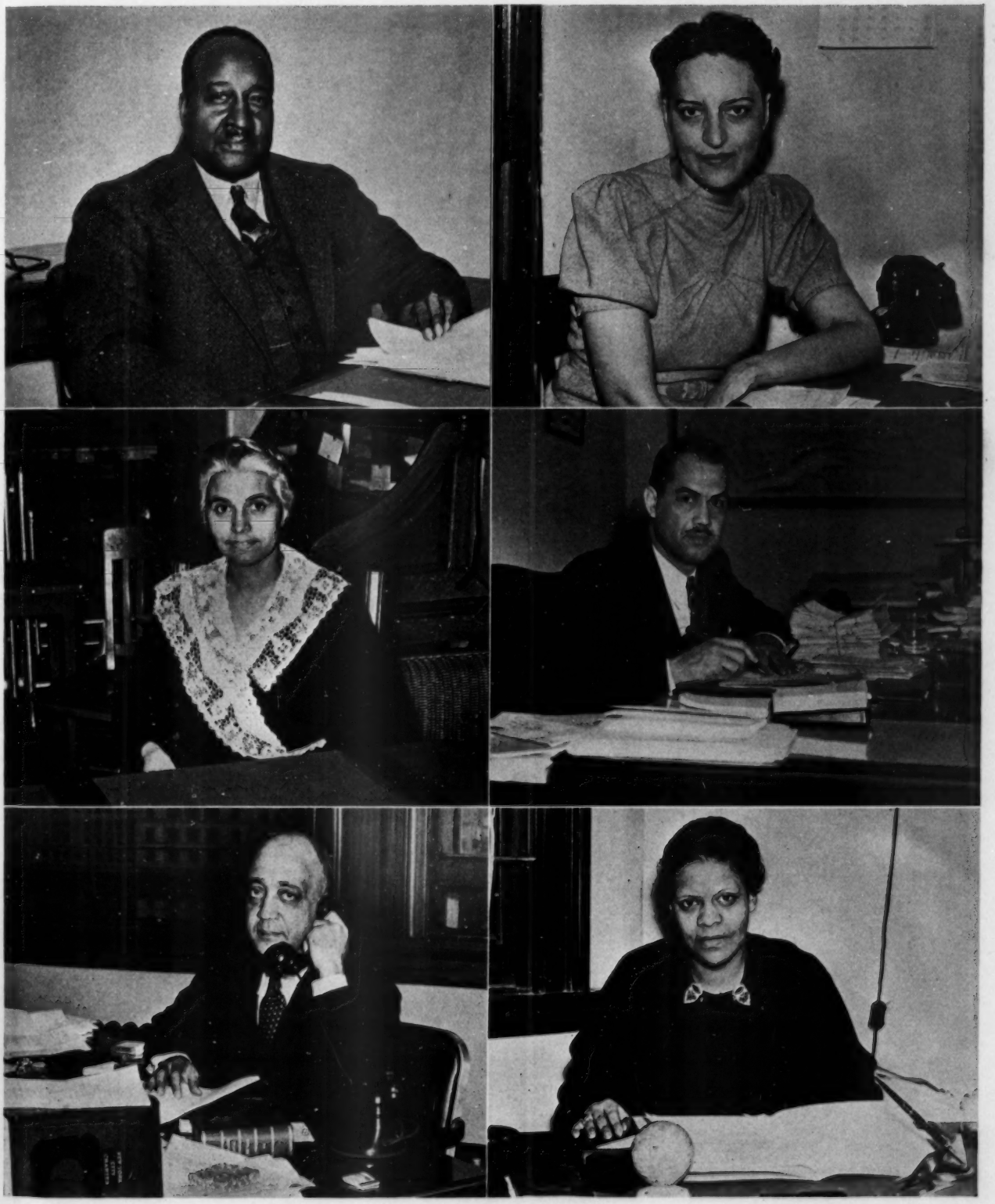
23,000 Taught to Read and Write in S. C.

Not to be outdone by the remarkable record of her sister state to the North, South Carolina can point to a 15 per cent reduction in the number of Negro illiterates since January 1, 1936. Credit for teaching 23,000 illiterates of the race to read and write goes to the education program of the Works Progress Administration.

In addition to the workers of the WPA's education program, including its corps of some 160 capable Negro teachers, are many volunteers who are working to increase the number of persons learning to read and write for the first time. Most of the volunteers are public school teachers interested in helping the state to attain a higher literacy rating in 1940. These teachers receive no compensation from the WPA for their work.

Besides these efforts to wipe out illiteracy among Negroes, 54 per cent of the 36,246 white persons in this state listed as illiterate in the 1930 census have been taught to read and write by the WPA since 1936.

Hear Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt
RICHMOND N.A.A.C.P. CONFERENCE
Sunday, July 2



This is New York and some of its personalities: *left to right, top, Elmer A. Carter, member, state unemployment appeals board; Jane M. Bolin, assistant corporation counsel; Elise McDougal Ayer, only Negro principal of a New York elementary school; Hubert T. Delany, tax commissioner; Ferdinand Q. Morton, civil service commissioner; Eunice Hunton Carter, assistant district attorney, New York county. All photos on these pages by M. & M. Smith*

More of New York and New Yorkers: *left to right, top: Francis E. Rivers, assistant district attorney; the gardens of the Paul Lawrence Dunbar apartments; the Harlem Health Center; the interior of Abyssinia Baptist church; Dr. John B. West, director of the Harlem Health Center; one courtyard of Harlem River Houses, the government low cost housing project*

Where New Yorkers live: *left to right, top: Manhattan avenue, looking north, at 112th street; West 139th street; St. Nicholas avenue at 135th street looking north, with St. Marks M. E. church in the center; Colonial park, looking south from 155th street, with Bradhurst avenue in the foreground and Edgecombe avenue on the upper right; Mt. Morris park west, looking south from 123rd street; the swimming pool at the 145th street end of Colonial park, with Edgecombe avenue in the background*

Youth Meets in Birmingham

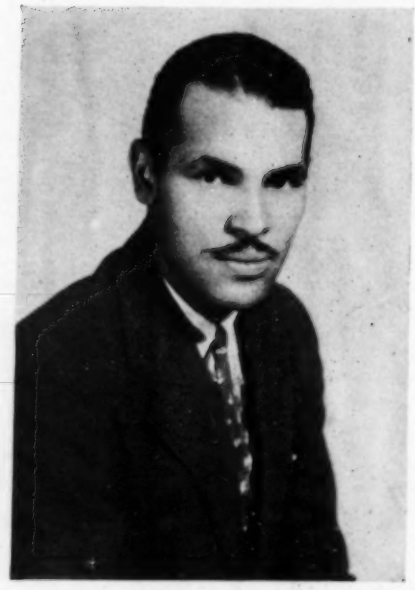
By Augusta V. Jackson

"I CAN'T believe this is Birmingham!"

Old inhabitants of the city and visitors to the Third All-Southern Negro Youth Conference April 27–30 were equally surprised. They had regarded Birmingham only as it was a few years ago, a grim slow-moving city where currents of modern progress were likely to be deflected immediately both by the unfriendly attitude of the authorities and the apparent lethargy of its people. For generations its furnaces had smoked and flared on the edges of the city, blackening the ramshackle little houses where most of the Negro population lives. For generations its miners, and workers in the steel plants, its maids, and laborers, and city teachers had gone to work, to church, and home again—an endless cycle. Nothing could happen in Birmingham, nothing ever did or ever would. Even a few months ago when the first preparations were being made by a courageous few to bring the conference of the Southern Negro Youth Congress to the city, people shook their heads at the unheard-of folly. "It might happen in Richmond, or Chattanooga, or Atlanta—anywhere, but," the final rejoinder always was, "Birmingham is different. Negroes here won't cooperate."

Nevertheless, some of those who at first were doubtful and hesitant, became later the hardest workers in planning for the Conference and the most earnest believers in its message of uniting young Negro people for action on their own social problems. For the first time in the memory of its citizens a conference was held in Birmingham where Negroes freely discussed economic and social issues concerning them, without fear and without disturbance from outside groups. In fact, for the first time in the city white public opinion looked with approval and interest on a conference of this kind.

The conference opened its sessions the evening of April 27 with a festival of music. The delegates and observers who were already gathering heard four choruses of young people from Birmingham and from schools in nearby counties sing the songs of the Negro people, the traditional spirituals, and worksongs, and arrangements of contemporary Negro composers. They were sung not artificially, as we sometimes hear them, but with fervent feeling, communicating to their listeners the certain knowledge that even in the furthest corners of the deep South the spirit of the young generation has not been made dull by the circumstances in which they live. The festival was a fitting introduction to the days of the conference that followed. Just as much of the music of the Negro was created in times of severest stress, so Birmingham which has long been a city where opportunities for the Negro have been most denied became for the days of the conference, in the eyes of its Negro population, the cradle of a reviving faith in the Negro people's destiny in the South.



HERMAN H. LONG
Chairman, Southern Negro Youth Congress

650 Delegates

The delegates to the conference came from fourteen southern states and the District of Columbia. Their ages ranged from the very young to the very old, from twelve to seventy. The lone delegate from Houston, Texas, was a poised, serious-faced girl of fourteen years whose mother wired to the conference to be assured of her daughter's safety. There were many among the 650 delegates, not much older than she, who had been sent from their schools, for the first time in their lives making contacts with other young people like themselves from all parts of the South. Even the very youngest were eager to exchange experiences and to learn. Other delegates came from the few scattered mining and manufacturing centers of the South, from the tiny churches in poverty-stricken, half-rural areas, and from farm counties in the region known as the "black belt" thick with tenant and sharecropping farms. The students were a fresh and envigorating element. Every college in Alabama had yielded its crop of young men and young women—Alabama State, Selma University, Stillman Institute, Miles Memorial College, and Tuskegee, and numbers from the city and county schools. Into these institutions pour the native sons and daughters of the state, from some of the most typical areas of the South.

The delegates came already equipped with a first hand knowledge of the prejudices, problems, and assets of communities in the deep South. Already of necessity they had faced the question of coping with problems of health, education, recreation, and jobs in their home communities. The incidents they related formed the reservoir of actual human experiences in the South upon which the conference based its deliberations, and from which it drew the material for a program suited to the needs and moods of southern life. The freshness of their outlook told the conference in far more effective terms than statistical charts what is the status of Negro youth, and what Negro young people are thinking. A typical illustration of this occurred when in the course of general discussion a vote was taken on whether the group was in favor of according Negroes equal but separate accommodations in schools and all phases of life, or whether they desired a society in which race was completely disregarded. With but one exception the group of about two hundred voted in favor of the latter.

Four Point Program

The vote that was polled on the question of separate institutions expressed a feeling that was present from beginning to end of the conference. The keynote was—working together; the organizations of the young people themselves, with the church, with adult bodies, and, where possible, with southern white youth. When Dr. Alain Locke, at the conference luncheon, praised the ability of today's youth to focus its collective attention on the problems before them, he summarized the attitude of the dele-

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Editorials

Editor, ROY WILKINS
Advisory Board: J. E. Spingarn, Dr. Louis T. Wright, Lewis Gannett, Walter White

The Masquerade Is Over

WE borrow the title of a current popular song for this editorial because it describes so aptly the situation created by the courageous action of Negro citizens in Miami, Fla., who trooped to the polls May 2 and voted in the primary, despite threats of the Ku Klux Klan.

The klan has been fading as a "bogey man" to Negroes for years. Only klansmen continue to believe that their masks and their hocus-pocus frighten the colored brother. Several years ago the klan paraded in Atlanta, Ga., and one impish Negro, expressing accurately the thoughts of his brothers who lined the curb, darted out into the street and snatched a hood off the head of a timid white man marching for intolerance.

Miami citizens, under the leadership of Sam B. Solomon, an undertaker, and president of the Negro Citizens' Service League, defied the klan, paid no attention to parades, to hangings in effigy, to threatening posters and leaflets, to suggestive nooses dangling from autos in the klan parade. Colored Miamians voted at a ratio of 5-to-1 greater than ever before.

Their action told the klan and the rest of the country that the masquerade is over; that the Negro means to exercise his citizenship rights and get a little of the democracy said to exist in this country. The Miami incident means that something better than masks and threats will have to be found to frighten and restrain Negroes, and better than the proposed Florida—

White Primary Law

HARD on the heels of the defiance of the klan in the May 2 primary in Miami came reports that the Florida legislature had passed a bill setting up a non-partisan white primary for Dade county, in which Miami is located. The bill was said to have been sent to Governor Cone for his signature.

However, when the N.A.A.C.P. wrote the secretary of state of Florida for a copy of the law, he replied that no such item had come to his desk and the secretary of the governor informed him that no such bill was before the governor.

The legislature may be trying to do a little bluffing of its own. If so, it won't work. Twelve years ago the N.A.A.C.P. lawyers hauled the state of Texas before the United States supreme court and had its white primary law declared unconstitutional. A state may not pass a law restricting primary elections to white voters.

If Florida did pass such a law and the governor signs it, a challenge will be made at the first opportunity, with N.A.A.C.P. attorneys assisting any Florida citizen who wants to go to court about it.

Twelfth Victory

WHEN the United States supreme court ruled on May 22 that the Oklahoma registration law of 1916 was unconstitutional, the opinion marked the twelfth victory before the high court of attorneys for the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People.

Thirteen cases, beginning with the famous "Grandfather clause" disfranchisement case in 1915 arising, incidentally, in Oklahoma, have been taken up. Twelve have been won.

The Lane v. Wilson case, decided May 22, was the direct outgrowth of the first case won by the association—the grandfather clause action in Guinn v. United States. When, in 1915, the high court ruled that Oklahoma (and other states) could not use the grandfather clause to disfranchise Negroes, Oklahoma immediately passed a law requiring all persons who had not voted in 1914 (i.e., Negroes) to register within ten days or lose their right to register and vote *forever thereafter*. After all these years this law has been challenged and beaten. The court's opinion, delivered by Mr. Justice Frankfurter, outlaws all types of trickery in barring Negroes, regardless of whether the race is mentioned by name or not.

Few if any associations working for civil rights can match this record of the N.A.A.C.P. on cases involving the basic constitutional rights of citizens. Laws and court opinions, of course, do not overturn established folkways overnight, but they clear the atmosphere, re-affirm the broad principles of democracy, and give a solid basis for carrying on the struggle for complete victory.

Block Stark

GOVERNOR LLOYD C. STARK of Missouri is said to have ambitions for national office. Governor Stark should not have the approval of Negro citizens for any post because of his action in signing the Taylor bill which treated the supreme court decision in the University of Missouri case with complete contempt. The court declared Missouri must provide a law school for Negro students equal to that at the University of Missouri or else admit them to the Missouri law school. The court also outlawed out-of-state scholarships.

The Taylor bill, now become a law, simply directs the curators to make Lincoln university the equal of the University of Missouri and directs that until this is done the state will pay scholarships for Negro students in other universities outside the state. The sum of $200,000 is supposed to be appropriated to bring about this equalization, but the trick in this is that the money is to come out of "special funds", meaning those not appropriated for other purposes. There are no such funds.

In the face of the supreme court decision, in the face of state-wide protests from Negro citizens, in the face of the obvious trickery in the bill, Governor Stark signed it. By this action he notified everyone that he cared nothing for the educational welfare of Negro Americans, or, more important, for their rights under the Constitution as defined by the highest court in the land. Such a man is not a fit public servant in a democracy and cannot be trusted with any high office in which he will have to pass upon the rights of twelve millions of his fellow citizens.

The Methodists

WE hope God has the Methodists in mind and that He will give compassionate attention to their special needs. They separated a hundred years ago over slavery. Now they have got together again with old wounds fairly well healed, and with the persistent black man roped off into a separate conference where he will be happy riding to Glory on a sort of jim crow train. We trust that if heaven is truly one great unsegregated family, God will not induct the American Methodists in too great numbers, or too rapidly, into a society that would shock them, perhaps, beyond hope of salvation.

Youth in Birmingham

(*Continued from page* 178)

gates. Community agencies of all types will be enlisted in carrying out the four-point program of Health, Jobs, Education, and Citizenship—which the young people at the conference indicated as the most vital needs of southern Negro youth.

As a complement to its four-point program for social action, the congress proudly espouses the cultural heritage of the Negro as its own. It seeks to widen an appreciation of the artistic and cultural contributions of the Negro in America, with the possibility of stimulating potential creators in the fields of art, music, and drama who now have only the most limited opportunities for expression. An ironic case (which has been repeated with variations in other southern communities) and which is well remembered is that of Augustus Williams, the Birmingham colored lad who was denied admittance to the city's public exhibit where his entry had been awarded a prize. The work of this highly talented young artist was shown in the art exhibit held in conjunction with the conference where hundreds saw their first display of all-Negro art. The evening before the final session was devoted to Randolph Edmonds, the young Negro playwright, who presented the Dillard university players in dramas which he had written and staged himself. The cultural features of the conference program were a natural outgrowth of the activity Councils of the Southern Negro Youth Congress have been carrying on in working to establish Negro drama groups in their communities and in studying Negro art and culture. For the young people of the conference regard spreading the knowledge and love of Negro art as an essential part of their social program.

The tremendous success and prestige of the conference was due in a large measure to the support received from adult organizations and individuals. Adult leaders of Birmingham and of other cities had worked tirelessly to make the conference a triumph not only for the young people, but for the whole community. As speakers at the conference mass meetings they sensed keenly the heart of the difficulties that young people face, and the need for new methods where sometimes the approach of their own generation had failed.

Among the adult group was a delegation from a mining section of West Virginia which has been interested in the Congress since its founding. It was a mixed group of white and colored—several of them already past forty. It was at once strange to see their seamed and toil-worn faces among the young people, and still a sign full of meaning and hope. It symbolized the readiness of an awakening white South to do their share in the work of tackling the age-old problems of the Negro. The interest of the adult South was further indicated by the fact that from the schools came not only the students, but also their teachers; from the churches, not only the young people but also their ministers. Even the white press of the city believed the gathering an important enough event to editorialize favorably, seeing in the conference a potent force for good for both races.

New Leadership

The new outlooks and attitudes developing around the movement of southern Negro youth are helping to create a young Negro leadership that is both resourceful and energetic. The leadership comes from all ranks of the people—some are students, some young people with business and professional training, others are young working men and women who bring to the movement from their labor unions a consciousness of the power of organized, united action. The executive council of the congress presents a group of variously gifted, colorful personalities—from different sections and different backgrounds who have found one common aim. Their biographies are typical of thousands of young Negroes—tales of struggle to keep jobs, to stay in school, of work in "Y's" and the NAACP, and of a lifelong, burning desire to see something done to extend opportunities for Negroes in the South. Two years experience organizing Congress councils of federated clubs, and actually achieving results, has widened their understanding of the possibilities of a movement among the South's 3,000,000 Negro youth. They think in terms of a lasting organization which will continue to hold dramatic and inspiring conferences, but which will more and more enter into the daily life of every city and county of the fourteen southern states where councils are now springing into existence.

The Third All-Southern Negro Youth Conference perceptibly strengthened the movement of Negro youth experimentally launched in Richmond in 1937. The conference revealed that the Congress has gone further than before into the deep South; that it has secured a wider cooperation of adult leaders; that its own leadership is maturing, and its role becoming clearer. Dr. F. D. Patterson of Tuskegee, speaking at the conference, listed the needs that progressive southern movements today must answer. One need, he said, is to establish a new view of life in the South—to end the too frequent recourse to the "dead end" outlook—to see, instead, that in the South a great opportunity exists to point the way to new horizons of life and liberty. With this perspective, the Third Conference of the Southern Negro Youth Congress has started the Negro youth movement on a new year of its life.

Walter White to Get Degree from Howard

The honorary degree of Doctor of Laws will be conferred upon Walter White, N.A.A.C.P. secretary, by Howard university at its commencement exercises June 9. The university will confer the same degree on President William J. Hale of Tennessee A. and I. college, Nashville; and the honorary degree of Master of Science on Matthew A. Henson, explorer.

Please Ask Me If I Love You

By Inge Hardison

Please ask me if I love you, ask me, dear,
That I might free my pregnant, hopeful heart
Of these ripe vows that clamor for release.
That I might know you nurse a seedling care.

You, coolly strolling down a garden path
Between the scarlet tulips in the dusk,
Or selling newlyweds the tiny space
On which to build a cottage in the spring,
Seem unaware of love, of tender things . . . . .

But I would teach them to you, ask me then,
This question that I know the answer of
As sweetly well as how your lashes grow
As surely well as you know real estate!

Art Exhibit Depicts Life of L'Ouverture

The life of Toussaint L'Ouverture, the famous Haitian general, whose courageous exploits were the foundation stone in preserving the independence of the small island Republic, was depicted in forty-one sketches exhibited here at the new DePorres Interracial Center at 20 Vesey street, May 22–June 5.

The exhibition is the work of Jacob Lawrence. The Center is operated by the Catholic Interracial Council of New York, and is named after the famous 17th century Negro Dominican Friar, Saint Martin Deporres, of Peru, who was beatified March 19, 1836.

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From the Press of the Nation

Editorial of the Month

An Old Lie

The *Journal* and *Guide*, Norfolk, Va.

IN the book, "Medical Information For Social Workers," edited by Dr. William Champion, and published by Williams and Wilkins Company of Baltimore, Md., this statement appears: " Gonorrhea in children is due to infection . . . most commonly received from toilet seats soiled by infected members of the household, such as COLORED MAIDS . . . "

A vigorous challenge of this insidious inference by Dr. George W. Bowles of York, Pa., president of the National Medical Association, brought this reply: "In any future printing or new edition, the expression you cite will be changed to some such expression as 'members of the household.' It is perfectly true that venereal disease is not restricted to any race, creed or sex."

When the publishers and editor of the book made a conditional surrender to Dr. Bowles' point of view by limiting correction to what was inferred to "future" printing and "new" edition of the book, they admitted malice aforethought.

Thanks to enlightened public opinion, such canards against the race now serve to win kind friends for us rather than increase our circle of enemies. The assertion that Negroes are, by and large, venereal incubators is one of the oldest lies in medical history. Venereal diseases among Negroes in Africa, the West Indies and the United States were unknown prior to the inauguration of the slave trade and the onward sweep of imperialism against Negroid people.

It is significant to note that white physicians who seek to libel the race as venereal carriers keep hidden from prying eyes their record of other infections in the homes where colored maids are employed. Just as how it is embarrassing and explosive to discuss the origin of over 3,000,000 mulattoes in the United States, so too, it is improper for these white propagandists to tell us how is it that colored maids, many of them from healthy, respectable families, several of them mothers, become infected after employment preceded by a thorough physical examination.

Regardless to what is the situation of the anti-lynching bill in the present Congress, Negroes should keep up the fight. They should keep in touch with their congressmen and senators at Washington and they should know for whom they will be casting their votes in the coming elections.

America must do something about lynching or hide her face every time the subject of democracy becomes the international topic, and it is up to Negroes to keep America reminded. It is up to them to keep heart and to give help and encouragement to those agencies that are still at work. —Louisville, Ky., *Leader*.

Ku Klux Klan made an effort to prevent Negroes from voting in Florida. White robed Klan figures, one of them carrying a rope, turned into a noose, had paraded through the Negro residential sections, burning crosses, scattering cards labeled by the K. K. K., and had hanged an effigy of a Negro as a sign of what would happen to Negroes who attempted to vote.

Undaunted by the threats, Negroes poured out to the polls and cast between 1000 and 1500 votes—more votes than had ever been cast by Negroes in that locality.

Nothing, however, was done by the Klan, as it seems they feared there might be real trouble if they undertook to carry out their threats.

Congratulations to these brave Negroes of Florida.—Cleveland, O., *Guide*.

We were pleased to note that during the past week, Maury Maverick was elected Mayor of San Antonio, Texas. We make this comment because we regard Mr. Maverick as the most progressive representative in Congress who has ever come from the South. His record in Congress shows that he has always played the role of a liberal thinker in questions affecting Negroes and their rights which have come up in this, the highest law-making body of the nation. He was among the leaders in the fight for an anti-lynching bill.

Aside from our interest in this matter, the people of San Antonio are to be congratulated on their fine selection of a man in their midst who has such qualities as to make him an outstanding liberal of the South. Surely there is a crying need of such men as Maury Maverick in public office, not only in the nation's capital, but also in the South. We believe that his election is a forward step toward the advancement of the people of the South and his administration will be watched with unusual interest by the people of the nation. We congratulate him upon his victory.—St. Louis, Mo., *Argus*.

Philadelphia is now having the criminal sensation of its bright young life, in the trial of many people for probably over 100 murders in the last ten years, for insurance money. One young woman naively said she knew not that she was giving her husband poison. She thought 'twas love powder. She wanted to make him as affectionate as he was during their honeymoon, which ended all too soon.—Cincinnati, O., *Union*.

Certain of the police of New Orleans remain rash in their quick resort to firearms, and Negro boys as well as men are far too frequently the victims of these officers of the law(?).

The promiscuous use of guns in the questioning (?) or attempted apprehension of any suspect is to be deplored, but when boys are involved there is positively no excuse for bringing guns into play. The fifteen-year-old boy who was shot last week was an innocent victim of this vicious practice, and his wounding should occasion the registration of protests with police headquarters. Children must be protected, it seems, not only by but from some members of the New Orleans law forces.—New Orleans, La., *Weekly*.

The most heartening thing which came out of that Nazi rally in New York's Madison Square Garden, was the undisputed moral victory which the fanaticism of Hitler's admirers achieved for the fundamental principles of American Democracy. . . . —Norfolk, Va., *Journal and Guide*.

Mussolini and Hitler still occupy the limelight and dominate Europe in a big way. England and France grin and bear it while they work overtime in the production of war supplies, both human and material. . . . —*The Union*, Cincinnati, O.

Along the N.A.A.C.P. Battlefront

Mrs. F. D. Roosevelt and Other Prominent Speakers Will Draw Record Crowd to N.A.A.C.P. Conference June 27-July 2

ALL roads will lead to Richmond, Va., the last week in June for the 30th annual conference of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, which opens the night of June 27 and runs through Sunday afternoon, July 2.

Approximately 1,000 delegates from branches, youth councils and college chapters are expected to be in attendance. The Wednesday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday sessions, day and night, will be held in the Fifth Street Baptist church, Fifth and Jackson streets.

From the opening night mass meeting in Richmond's Mosque—seating 4500—to the closing meeting Sunday afternoon, to be held, also, in The Mosque, the program is packed with headline speakers, and experts in various fields including employment, health, housing, political action, legal defense work, education, and branch administration problems.

Man Who Defied Klan in Miami to Speak

Undoubtedly one of the high points of the conference will be a speech by Samuel B. Solomon of Miami, Fla., president of the Negro Citizens' Service League. Mr. Solomon led Miami colored voters to the polls in the city primary May 2 in defiance of threats made by the Ku Klux Klan of that city. He will tell the inside story of the events in Miami which thrilled colored people all over the nation.

Indications are that the closing meeting of the conference on Sunday afternoon, July 2, will be too large for the largest auditorium in Richmond. At this meeting, Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt will speak and present the 24th Spingarn medal to Miss Marian Anderson, the world-famous contralto. Walter White, executive secretary of the N.A.A.C.P., will also speak. Governor James H. Price, of Virginia, will deliver brief welcoming remarks to the First Lady and to the conference. Mrs. Daisy E. Lampkin, field secretary of the association, will preside and introduce Mrs. Roosevelt.

Arrangements already are being made to install loud speakers to accommodate the overflow crowd that is expected to occupy the street surrounding The Mosque and the park directly across the street. Special music will be rendered by a huge chorus and the speech of Mrs. Roosevelt will be carried on a nationwide radio network.

One of the principal speakers for the opening night, June 27, will be Judge William H. Hastie, who has returned from the Virgin Islands where he resigned his post to take up his duties as dean of the Howard university law school. Judge Hastie will deliver the keynote address, reviewing briefly the most significant accomplishments of the N.A.A.C.P. in its thirty years of existence and sounding a call for the work yet to be done.

On Wednesday night, June 28, there will be a panel discussion on employment led by Roy Wilkins, assistant secretary of the association. One of the principal participants in this panel will be Elmer A. Carter, one of the three members of the appeals board of the State Unemployment Insurance Fund in New York. This appeals board handles hundreds of cases involving unemployment insurance in New York State.

The full significance of the victory in the University of Missouri case will be outlined Thursday night, June 29, by Charles H. Houston, who argued the case before the U. S. Supreme Court. The other address at the Thursday night meeting will be given by Dr. Louis T. Wright of New York, chairman of the board of directors of the N.A.A.C.P., who will speak on the proposed national health program and its relation to the health problems of colored people.

The Friday night program, June 30, will be youth night. Edward Strong, executive secretary of the Southern Negro Youth Congress, will give a short talk on "Problems of Southern Negro Youth". There will be short talks, also, on registration and the poll tax, and on the youth work of the N.A.A.C.P.

Experts to Lead Discussions

The discussion groups which will meet during the day sessions of the conference will be led by experts in various fields and promise to be the most interesting and spirited sessions of this kind in recent years.

For Wednesday morning, June 28, the general subject will be "Economic Problems of the South" and these will be attacked under the headings (a) low wages; and (b) low income farming.

The speaker on low wages will be S. H. Dykstra from the office of Elmer F. Andrews, administrator of the wages and hours act. Discussion of this topic will be led by Lester B. Granger, formerly of the National Urban League and now with the Welfare Council in New York City.

The speech on low income farming will be made by Dr. Charles S. Johnson, head of the Department of Social Science at Fisk university, and the discussion leader will be Howard Kester, organizer of the Southern Tenant Farmers' Union. Other participants in this discussion will be Albon L. Holsey of Tuskegee Institute and Washington, D. C., and George H. Smith from the Delta Cooperative Farm at Rochdale, Miss.

The afternoon session on June 28 will be in charge of Edward S. Lewis, executive secretary of the Baltimore, Md., Urban League. The general subject will be "Economic Security". The rights of labor with particular reference to Negro workers under the Social Security Act, the National Labor Relations Act, the Wages and Hours Act, and other legislation, will be presented by James G. Tyson, Joseph C. Waddy and Charles H. Houston of Washington, D. C.

Methods used by labor groups to secure these rights will be outlined by Eugene Davidson of the New Negro Alliance in Washington, D. C., and James Jackson, Jr., of Richmond. Mr. Davidson will tell of the picketing in Washington to secure jobs and Mr. Jackson will tell of the successful organization of Negro tobacco workers in Richmond.

Health, Housing, Education

On Thursday morning, June 29, Mrs. J. B. Morris of Des Moines, Iowa, will preside and the topic for discussion will be health. Dr. John West, director of the Harlem Health Center in New York, will outline how to work for equalization in local and state public health programs. Harold Lett, member of the Newark, N. J., Housing Authority, will speak on problems arising in the administration of low cost housing projects.

One of the most interesting of the daytime discussion groups is scheduled for Thursday afternoon, June 29, on education. Doxey Wilkerson, of the Howard university faculty, will preside and present the general subject. Speakers will be Mrs. Enolia McMillan of Baltimore. Md., president of the Maryland State Teachers' Association; Lester B. Granger, of New York; T. G. Nutter, Charleston, W. Va.; and Thurgood Marshall, New York. The whole range of discrimination in public education and how to attack it will be dealt with by the speakers.

Problems of Branches

On Friday morning, June 30, William Pickens, director of branches of the association, will preside over a session at which speakers will discuss problems of the association and of the branches. One topic will be the establishment of multiple units of branches in one city. Another will be the handling of publicity by branches and the proposed change in the form of THE CRISIS (from a monthly magazine to a semi-monthly tabloid paper). The other topic for Friday morning will be the building of a year-round program to reach larger sections of the population.

The problems of the branches are so important that a slight change has been made in the day programs this year to allow more time for discussion. The program for Wednesday and Thursday morning will open at 9 o'clock instead of ten. The hour from nine until ten each morning will be given over to branch topics. On Wednesday morning, June 28, Mrs. Daisy E. Lampkin will give advice on how to run a membership campaign and another speaker will give concrete suggestions on general methods of raising money. There will be discussion from the floor after these two short speeches until 10 o'clock when the main topic of the morning will be taken up.

On Thursday morning at nine o'clock, three topics will be discussed: (a) problems of big branches; (b) problems of smaller branches; and (c) operation of state conferences. Editor Roscoe Dunjee of Oklahoma City, Okla., president of the powerful Oklahoma state conference and member of the national board of directors, will discuss state conferences. There will be discussion from the floor on these topics until 10 o'clock.

At the Friday morning session the discussion of all branch topics throughout the week will be summarized and opportunity given for additional discussion from the floor.

Special Features

Throughout the conference there will be on exhibition at the Richmond public library songs by 150 Negro composers loaned by Arthur B. Spingarn, chairman of the national legal committee of the association.

Youth debate on socialized medicine, Detroit vs. Boston, Thursday, June 29, 11:15 a.m.

Meeting of the board of directors Thursday, June 29, 4 p.m., followed by dinner.

Conference photograph, twelve noon Friday, June 30.

Walter White Birthday luncheon celebrating his twenty-one years with the N.A.A.C.P., 12:30 noon, Friday, June 30.

Youth fellowship dinner Friday, June 30, 6 p.m.

Boat ride for delegates down the James River Saturday, July 1, 2 p.m.

A play "Place: America" done in the Living Newspaper style by the Negro Community Theatre of Richmond Saturday, July 1, 8:30 p.m. This play is written from the history of the N.A.A.C.P. and touches upon the principal problems attacked by the association in behalf of Negro citizenship rights.

Civil Rights—Business

Another important discussion is scheduled for Friday afternoon, June 30, on civil rights. Editor P. B. Young, Sr., of Norfolk, Va., will preside.. Tax Commissioner Hubert T. Delany of New York, member of the national board and national legal committee, will talk on disfranchisement of Negroes in the South; James M. Nabrit, of the Howard university law school, will speak on methods of enforcing the right to vote; Dr. Leon A. Ransom, member of the national legal committee and of the faculty of Howard law school, will speak on the Negro in jury service; Robert L. Ming, also of Howard law school, will talk on methods of combatting police brutality; and Mrs. Grace Towns Hamilton, of Memphis, Tenn., will outline methods by which laymen can cooperate with lawyers in fighting police brutality.

The closing business session of the conference will be held Saturday morning, July 1, with Judge William H. Hastie presiding. At this session, the report of the resolutions committee will be adopted and the report of the time and place committee for the 1940 conference will be heard. Three delegates to the conference will be elected as members of the nominating committee for the board of directors.

Youth Conference Expects 200 Delegates

Youth delegates to the 30th annual conference will hold meetings on youth problems beginning simultaneously with the adult sessions. The separate youth sessions will be held in the mornings only and in the afternoons the youth delegates will participate in the program arranged for all delegates. James H. Robinson, acting youth director, has arranged a youth program to dovetail with the discussions of the senior delegates. The only variation will occur on Friday afternoon when the young people will hold four clinics on youth council problems. About 250 delegates are expected at the youth conference.

Youth delegates will register all day June 27 and there will be a brief reception and get acquainted session from 7 to 8 p.m. that night. They will attend the opening mass meeting of the conference at The Mosque at 8 o'clock.

On Wednesday morning, June 28, the discussion will be upon labor problems and organization with Brank Fulton, secretary of the economic commission of the National Intercollegiate Christian Council, New York, N. Y., speaking on collective security techniques for minority groups; and George H. Smith of the Delta Cooperative Farm, Rochdale, Miss., talking on problems of agricultural and domestic unionization. Other speakers will be John O. Holly, Cleveland, O., president of the Future Outlook League, on methods of securing employment; and an N.Y.A. speaker.

On Thursday morning, June 29, there will be a panel discussion on the topic "Physical Security and Civil Rights" presided over by Thurgood Marshall, assistant special counsel of the association, and participated in by John Holly, George Smith, Miss L. Pearl Mitchell, Brank Fulton and Ed Strong.

At 11:15 a.m., the young people will stage a debate on socialized medicine between the Detroit, Mich., youth council and the Boston, Mass., youth council, with Detroit upholding the affirmative.

The Friday morning session, June 30, will have Walter White, executive secre-

tary of the association, as the principal speaker on the topic "Building the Work of the N.A.A.C.P." James H. Robinson, acting director of youth work, will also speak. At 11 o'clock that morning Dr. James J. McClendon, president of the Detroit branch, and Gloster Current, president of the Detroit youth councils, will speak on relations between youth councils and senior branches.

On Friday afternoon, the young people will hold four discussion clinics on finance, organization, multiple councils and program.

The annual youth fellowship dinner, which has come to be an enjoyable feature of the past three conferences, will be held Friday evening at 6 o'clock. The board members and the national officers will be guests of honor.

Richmond Branch Ready for Throng

The Richmond, Va., branch, under the leadership of Dr. J. M. Tinsley, president, has been at work since last October making preparations to entertain the conference. No stone has been left unturned to make the 30th annual meeting a fitting celebration of the association's activities and conference ground to lay plans for the future.

Numerous committees are working with Dr. Tinsley, who has been assisted by Dr. W. L. Ransome, member of the national board of directors. Dr. Ransome will preside on the opening night. Dr. Tinsley will give a short welcome address for the Richmond branch and Mayor J. Fulmer Bright will welcome the conference in behalf of the city.

Work of Negro Composers To Be Exhibited at Richmond

MARIAN ANDERSON has been awarded the Spingarn Medal which will be presented to her in Richmond, Va., on July 2 by Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt. Miss Anderson will be the twenty-fourth recipient of the medal.

Miss Anderson is one of the supreme masters of music and though her genius is beyond race it seemed fitting on this occasion to give the public an opportunity to envisage other contributions to music made by her race. Accordingly, there will be placed in the Richmond Public Library during the week of the conference an exhibition of music by Negro composers.

There are, of course, thousands of compositions by such composers but this exhibition will be limited to one musical composition by each of some one hundred and fifty Negro composers. They will range from the eighteenth century to the present time. The earliest work shown will be that of Chevalier Saint Georges, a native of Guadaloupe, who was famous in the second half of the eighteenth century in France, both as a violinist and the greatest swordsman of his day. He composed, among other things, four operas and several compositions for the violin. There will also be shown an opera of Antonio Carlos Gomez, a Brazilian, whose operas have been played at La Scala in Milan and the Metropolitan Opera House in New York.

There is also included a work of Joseph White, a Cuban musician, who was a concert master at the court of the Empress Eugenie. Many Negro composers of serious music will be included, such as Samuel Coleridge-Taylor, Harry T. Burleigh, William L. Dawson, R. Nathaniel Dett, Carl Diton, Harry Lawrence Freeman, J. Rosamond Johnson, Edward H. Margetson, Florence Bond Price, William Grant Still, Clarence Cameron White; a number of composers whose works are a common heritage of America such as James Bland's "Carry Me Back To Old Virginny", Richard Milburn's "Listen to the Mocking Bird", falsely attributed to Alice Hawthorne; Samuel Lucas's "Grandfather's Clock", and other similar works.

During the end of the last century and the beginning of this many of the most popular songs and sentimental ballads were written by Negro composers such as Gussie Davis (whose "Down In Poverty Row" moved audiences to tears), Will Marion Cook, Chris Smith, Ernest Hogan, Bert Williams, Cole and Johnson. The jazz, rag and the blues, all Negro creations, will be represented by such composers as W. C. Handy, Ford Dabney, Duke Ellington, and many others.

The full list of composers whose works will be exhibited is as follows:

Will Accoe, Alton Adams, Wellington Adams, Amanda Ira Aldridge, Louis Armstrong, N. E. J. Ballantana-Taylor, Basile Bares, Nathan Bivans, Eubie Blake, James Bland, Blind Tom, Edward H. Boatner, George A. P. Bridgetower, Perry Bradford, William Brady.

Lawrence Brown, Shelton Brooks, Tim Brymn, Harry T. Burleigh, W. Arthur Calhoun, Cab Calloway, Melville Charlton, A. J. R. Connor, Bob Cole, A. Myron Cochran, Charles L. Cook, Will Marion Cook, Walter F. Craig, Henry S. Creamer, S. Coleridge-Taylor.

Bevins Davis, Gussie L. Davis, William L. Dawson, Edmund Dede, R. Nathaniel Dett, Carl Diton, Ford Dabney, W. P. Dabney, John T. Douglass, Sheppard Edmunds, William C. Elkins, Duke Ellington, Justin Elie, James Reese Europe, W. H. Farrell.

Harry Lawrence Freeman, Antonio Carlos Gomez, Shirley Graham, Luella M. Handy, W. C. Handy, Maude Cuney Hare, Roland Hayes, Donald Heywood, Alex Hill, J. Leubrie Hill, Ernest Hogan, Justin Holland, Marylon I. Jackson, E. Aldama Jackson, Al Johns.

Clarence M. Jones, Irving Jones, Billy Johnson, Bessie V. Johnson, Hall Johnson, J. Rosamond Johnson, James P. Johnson, J. C. Johnson, Luckie Johnson, Scott Jolpin, Joe Jordan, Lucien Lambert, Sidney Lambert, J. Turner Layton, Frederick Elliott Lewis.

Tom Lemonier, Sam Lucas (Samuel Milady), R. C. McPherson, Yolande Maddox, Edward H. Margetson, Clarence Muse, Kate Parker, Sid Perrin, Maceo Pinkhard, Arnold J. Piron, Dick Porter, Florence Bond Price, Andy Razaf, J. Milton Reddie.

Don Redman, C. Luckeyth Roberts, Bill Robinson, Alex Rogers, Noah F. Ryder, Jacob Sawyer, Jessye A. Shipp, Chevalier De Saint Georges, Noble Sissle, Bessie Smith, Chris Smith, N. Clark Smith, Samuel Snaer, H. E. Stewart, William Grant Still.

Jean Stor, Fred S. Stone, Wen Talbert, Carlotta C. Thomas, De Koven Thompson, Joe Trent, Will Tyers, Tom Turpin, James Vaughan, Will H. Vodery, Lester A. Walton, Thomas "Fats" Waller, Joseph White, Clarence Cameron White.

Bert Williams, Clarence Williams, Henry F. Williams, Spencer Williams, Fred J. Work, John Work.

These musical compositions are all from the collection of Arthur B. Spingarn, chairman of the national legal committee of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, and are chosen from approximately two thousand compositions by Negro musicians in his collection.

Branch News

The **Memphis, Tenn.**, branch presented Roy Wilkins, assistant secretary of the N.A.A.C.P. in a public mass meeting at the Mississippi Christian Church on April 27.

Roy Wilkins, assistant secretary of the N.A.A.C.P. spoke at a gigantic mass meeting of the **Kansas City, Mo.**, branch, at the Centennial M. E. Church, Sunday, April 30. The speaking was preceded by a parade, in which cooperating organizations joined in giving a demonstration against lynching and other injustices.

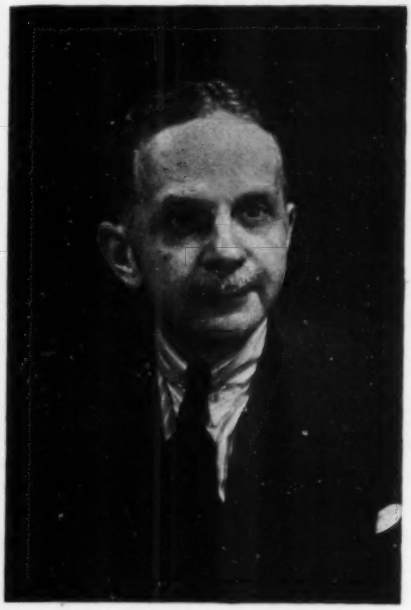
The executive committee of the **Ottumwa, Iowa,** branch held its regular monthly meeting in the Courier Auditorium on April 28.

The **Jamaica, N. Y.** branch presented two experts on Negro problems at its regular monthly meeting on April 27. Gerald E. Allen, director of research for the New York State Temporary Committee Investigating Urban Negroes, and Dr. Charles L. Franklin of the State Department of Labor, spoke on "The Negro and His Unemployment Problem."

Dean William Pickens, director of branches of the N.A.A.C.P., was guest speaker for the **Ossining, N. Y.** branch April 30, at the Star Bethlehem Church. Floyd Cheatham, president of the local branch, spoke and the Rev. W. H. Skipwith made a welcoming address. Dr.

(*Continued on page* 186)

21 Years with N.A.A.C.P.



WALTER WHITE

Branches and members of the N.A.A.C.P. throughout the country are planning an unique tribute at the Richmond conference to the twenty-one years of service Walter White has given the association.

The tribute will take the form of contributions to the legal defense fund of the association. Mrs. Lillie M. Jackson, president of the Baltimore, Md., branch, who is chairman of the nation-wide Walter White Birthday Appeal, has suggested in letters to the branches that contributions to the legal defense fund be made in multiples of 21. For example, a contributor might want to give 10c. for each of the twenty-years that Walter White has worked in the N.A.A.C.P. That would mean a contribution of $2.10 to the legal defense fund of the association. Or a contributor might want to give $1 for each year, making a total of $21. Any amount, large or small, will be welcomed by the committee and the legal defense fund.

Special envelopes have been prepared and are being distributed under the direction of Mrs. Jackson. Each individual contributor can place the amount of money he wishes to give in this envelope and turn it over to the local branch of the association which, in turn, will forward it to Mrs. Jackson.

The announcement of the total amount contributed will be made at a luncheon at the Richmond conference on Friday noon, June 30.

When he was reminded of his twenty-first year of service, Mr. White stated that nothing would make him happier than to have available more money for the legal defense work of the association so that the heartrending cases of defenseless colored people who appeal to the N.A.A.C.P could be handled by the legal staff. For a number of years the association, because of lack of funds, has been forced to turn down pleas for assistance in court cases. In other worthy cases it has had to confine itself to making a small contribution to the expenses instead of prosecuting the fight with full vigor.

Mr. White's deep interest in the legal defense work of the association and his desire that the N.A.A.C.P. be a powerful defense body for persecuted colored people were born of his many experiences in investigating these persecutions, often at the risk of his own life.

Branches and individuals who wish to contribute to the legal defense fund as a measure of appreciation of the services of Mr. White may secure information by writing to Mrs. Lillie M. Jackson, 1216 Druid Hill avenue, Baltimore, Md. A contribution may be sent directly to Mrs. Jackson marked for Walter White Birthday Celebration.

Conference Speaker

SAMUEL B. SOLOMON

The nation was thrilled May 2 and 3 by the news from Miami, Fla., that despite threats from the Ku Klux Klan, including a parade, burning of fiery crosses and the hanging of a Negro in effigy, the colored citizens of that town voted five times more heavily than ever before.

The man chiefly responsible for defying the Klan and getting out the Negro vote was Samuel B. Solomon, president of the Negro Citizens' Service League of Miami.

Mr. Solomon was born in Albany, Georgia, January 9, 1902, the son of John and Carrie (Butler) Solomon. He was reared in Albany, where he received his early education in the public school. He attended the Georgia Normal and Industrial College, where he received his advance education.

Coming from a line of funeral directors, it was a natural sequence that young Solomon should fall in line and become one also—thus his present occupation, funeral director, and proprietor of the Sam B. Solomon Funeral Home, located at 223 N. W. 10th street, Miami, Florida, which, incidentally, is also the headquarters of the Negro Citizens' Service League. It is one of the most popular and widely-known funeral homes in southeast Florida.

Before venturing out in the field of funeral directing, young Solomon worked as a special agent and representative of the Atlanta Life Insurance company.

He has the distinction of having been the publisher of a weekly newspaper at the age of 15. At that age he published the *"American Weekly"* in his home town, Albany, Georgia.

Mr. Solomon came to the City of Miami about four or five years ago indirectly from Albany. After being in Miami only a few months he established his business, formerly known as the Royal Funeral Home. Within a few months after coming to Miami, he became widely known and respected throughout the City of Miami, both by white and colored people. It was due largely to this fact that he was unanimously elected to the presidency of the Negro Citizens' Service League.

Mr. Solomon is a member of Mt. Zion's Baptist church; a member and past treasurer of Atlas Lodge No. 308, I.B.P.O.E. of W. at Miami; founder of the '39ers, a business men's club of Miami; and an honorary member of the Business and Professional Women's Circle, (only male member).

Otis Mundy, a member of the board of advisers of the Negro Citizens' Service League, was Mr. Solomon's close assistant in performing the task of getting the Negro citizens of Miami to register and vote in the face of Klan threats.

Mr. Solomon will tell the dramatic story of the May 2 primary at the 30th annual conference of the N.A.A.C.P. in Richmond, Va., June 27-July 2.

NEED A LAWYER?

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Branch News

(*Continued from page* 184)

George W. Hill introduced Dean Pickens.

Rev. Dr. Clinton Lee Scott, of First Universalist Church, was guest speaker for the **Peoria, Ill.** branch on April 26. The following officers were elected to guide the branch through the coming year: Ralph Coursey, president; James Young, secretary; and Oscar White, treasurer.

The organizing committee for a branch of the N.A.A.C.P. in **Peekskill, N. Y.,** held an interesting public meeting at the Knights of Columbus Hall April 28. Many prominent persons were in attendance. James E. Allen, president of the New York State Conference of Branches, and Lionel Barrow, president of the New York City branch, were among the speakers. Joseph I. F. Barnes, Sr., a prominent citizen of Peekskill, is among those seeking to establish a branch in the community.

Roy Wilkins, editor of the Crisis, was guest speaker at the Centennial Building auditorium, under the auspices of the Citizen's committee of the **Springfield, Ill.,** branch of the N.A.A.C.P. on May 1. Mr. Wilkins spoke on "Fascism, Race Hatred, and Democracy." The meeting was well attended by members of both groups.

Dean William Pickens, director of branches, was a guest speaker for the **Paterson, N. J.** branch on May 11. The meeting was excellently attended by both races. Under the guidance of Mrs. Fannie H. Curtis, president, the newly revived branch is making excellent strides.

With membership in the **Springfield, Mass.,** branch already totaling four hundred, officers of the branch decided to extend the campaign until May 15, in hope of obtaining the quota of five hundred members.

A campaign to increase by 2,000 the membership of the **New Orleans, La.** branch, was launched May 2, at a meeting held at the Y.W.C.A. N. O. Nelson was named general manager; B. D. Parker, assistant general manager. Dr. W. R. Adams explained the objectives of the N.A.A.C.P. in a brief address.

The **Kansas City, Kansas** branch presented E. Frederic Morrow, coordinator of branches of the N.A.A.C.P., at a public meeting April 30, held at the St. Peter's C.M.E. Church. R. B. Brown, president of the branch, presided. Mrs. V. Hardee Middlebrooks, secretary of Yates branch Y.W.C.A., introduced the speaker. The Sumner high school band furnished music for the occasion.

The **Youngstown, Ohio** branch held its regular monthly meeting at the West Federal Street "Y", May 1. Plans were completed for the annual membership campaign, with S. S. Booker in charge. Workers and division leaders received instructions at the meeting.

The **Houston, Texas,** branch met May 3, at the Odd Fellows Temple to hear reports on its membership contest and financial drive. The organization is offering prizes for the best membership and financial reports. Prizes are a trip to the World's Fair in New York or San Francisco, a trip to the annual conference in Richmond, and merchandising awards from Houston merchants.

The regular monthly meeting of the **Wilmington, Del.,** branch was held in the Ezion M. E. Church on April 25. Rev. Arthur R. James presided. Reports on results of the membership drive were given, and plans for active participation in community problems were discussed.

The **Hartford, Conn.** branch met May 3, at the Women's League Community House. The speaker for the evening was Max I. Farber, city editor of the **Hartford Times.**

Miss Gertrude Dansby, of Decatur, Ill., was guest soloist at **Springfield, Ill.,** when Roy Wilkins, editor of the **Crisis** addressed a community meeting at the Centennial Building, under the auspices of the Springfield branch, May 1.

A trip to the New York World's Fair will be the first prize to the person obtaining the greatest number of new members during the 1939 drive of the **Akron, Ohio** branch, May 14 to June 11. The executive committee of the branch will meet each Monday night, starting May 8 until the conclusion of the drive.

Dr. Charles E. Russell, noted author and member of the national board of directors of the N.A.A.C.P., addressed the **Washington, D. C.** branch on May 9, at the Metropolitan A.M.E. church.

The **Nashville, Tenn.** branch presented Luther King, well known young Negro tenor, on May 18, at the War Memorial Auditorium.

Due to the militant action of the **Milwaukee, Wis.,** branch, led by Rev. Leroy S. Dakin, the Milwaukee Motion Picture Commission on April 25, re-affirmed its recent action in banning the film, "Birth of a Nation" from further showing in Milwaukee.

A meeting of the **Toledo, Ohio** branch was held April 26, in the Indiana Branch Y.M.C.A. Atty. Clarence Smith discussed "The N.A.A.C.P. and the D.A.R." and "Economy Store Picket Line." Miss Frances Alexander is president of the branch.

The annual oratorical contest of the **Bayonne, N. J.** branch was held on April 21, at the Angelic Baptist church. Contestants were boys and girls from the junior and senior high school. Judges were Dr. Williams Carpenter, Mrs. Gladys Rose and Dr. Paul Sinclair.

The **Allen County** branch of the N.A.A.C.P., **Lima, Ohio,** met at the Fourth Street Baptist Church on April 20 for the election of officers and the selection of the committee.

Dr. Leon A. Ransom was the principal speaker at a meeting of the **Paducah, Ky.,** branch at the Washington Street church on April 24. The object of the meeting was to increase the membership of the branch. Manuel Bolen presided.

Charles H. Houston, special counsel for the N.A.A.C.P., spoke at the Fifth Avenue Presbyterian Church on April 23, under the auspices of the **Roanoke, Va.,** branch. Mr. Houston's topic was, "True facts about the Marian Anderson Concert and the Daughters of the American Revolution."

Dr. Rufus E. Clement, president of Atlanta university, spoke at the First Baptist Church on April 23, under the auspices of the **Charleston, W. Va.,** Branch.

Raymond W. Taylor was guest speaker at the April meeting of the **Newport, R. I.,** branch. His subject was, "People I have Known."

The twentieth anniversary of the **Rochester, N. Y.,** branch of the N.A.A.C.P. will be celebrated in June of this year. At a recent meeting Miss Mary E. Langford was elected to serve on the youth council committee. She will assist Miss Mary Black and other members in stimulating interest in the junior branch activities.

The **Princeton, N. J.** branch held its regular meeting on April 23. The speaker was Mrs. Grace B. Fenderson of Newark, a member of the national board of directors. Her subject was "The World Tomorrow." Miss Fenderson was introduced by Dr. David W. Anthony, president of the New Jersey State Conference of Branches. The local branch recently received the membership of Charles R. Erdman, Jr., Mayor of Princeton, and other memberships from foremost civic, social and business organizations of the community.

The **Long Branch, N. J.,** unit of the N. A. A. C. P. recently closed its spring membership campaign at a mass meeting at which William Pickens was guest speaker. According to the lawyers of the Beach Segregation Case against the City of Long Branch, handled by the Long Branch unit, the case was scheduled to be argued in the May session of the state supreme court. Although the city had been given the brief of the case, no answering brief had been made.

On the fourth Saturday in May, the Long Branch unit was host for the New Jersey State Conference at its annual meeting.

Youth Council News

Buffalo Holds Youth Assembly

The Buffalo, New York, youth council sponsored the First Western New York Assembly of Negro Youth in conjunction with the Michigan Avenue Branch of the Y.M.C.A. on Saturday and Sunday, May 20 and 21. The theme of the conference, "That Youth May Know" was enlarged upon in discussion groups under the headings, Economic Security and Unemployment, Education for Effective Living, Negro Youth in Politics, Youth and Religion, Youth and Marriage, Negro Youth in World Affairs. Speakers were Atty. R. Burrell, Dr. L. O. Cummings, W. L. Evans, Rev. L. Holley, Crispin Hall, Rev. S. O. B. Johnson, A. P. Wofford, John Rollard, Mrs. Lucille Jackson, Mrs. Calpurnia Allen, S. L. McIntyre, Alexander Hall and others.

Clubs and organizations who cooperated with the council and the Y.M.C.A. to make the affair a success were: Adelphos Breakfast Club, Athenaen Club, Athlos Fraternity, Beta Phalanx Fraternity, Co-Ed Club, Celebs Club, Chit Chat Club, Delta Sigma Psi, Enterprisers, Esquire Club, Girls Hi-Y, Michigan Hi-Y, Personality Club, Pragmatic Club, Smart Set, Smart Set Social Club, Trojans, Vendredi Club, Yadrutus, Setrams, Tennis Club, Zenith Club, Nynya Club.

Morristown Holds Spring Dance

The Morristown, N. J. youth council held a spring dance at Eureka Hall recently. Old fashioned and modern dances took place against an attractive setting representing an outdoor garden. Prizes were awarded for the prettiest spring costumes. Misses Alice Satchelle, Kate and Vanie Martin, and Samuel Hughey composed the committee of ar-

rangements. Evelyn Watson is president of the Morristown council.

Vocational Guidance

Vocational Guidance was the subject for discussion at a recent meeting of the New Bedford, Mass. youth council. The meeting was held at the New Bedford Home for the Aged. John Vidal is the new president of the council.

Grand Rapids Youth Program

The Grand Rapids, Michigan youth council, with the cooperation of the NYA held a youth vocational program at Messiah Baptist Church recently. Armen S. Kurjian of the Grand Rapids Association of Commerce was the principal speaker, with other addresses by Mrs. Harold Bledsoe of Detroit, James McCrary, former football star at Michigan State College, Edward Tolan, former Michigan track star, and George M. Smith, state representative of NYA.

The committee of arrangements included Mrs. Floyd Skinner, Mrs. Walter Simmons, Mrs. Walter Coe, Misses Eunice Sims and Mary Marris, and J. B. McKnight.

Shaw Membership Drive Closes

The Shaw University College Chapter of Nashville, Tenn. concluded a successful membership drive with a three day chapel program. These programs were all conducted by student heads of organizations, and were presided over by the president of the chapter, William C. Raines.

On the first day, the history of the N.A.A.C.P. was presented by Ulysses Bank, member of the debating team. On the second day, Prof. Hicks White, chairman of the Interracial Movement of Wake County spoke on "How the Negro Can Solve His Problems." On the third day, Mrs. Lillian Duboset, social case worker, spoke on the activities of the senior branch and the college chapter. The chapel series closed with a political symposium sponsored by the graduating class.

Oklahoma Youth Conference

The Oklahoma youth councils, under the direction of Miss Vida Milton, president, held the Third Annual Youth Conference at Douglass high school, Wewoka, Oklahoma recently. The slogan of the Conference was "On to Richmond."

A discussion group on "Job Seeking Young People" was led by Julius Moran, president of the Tulsa youth council, assisted by Blanch Foushee, Tulsa; Theola Phillips, Wewoka; Rev. O. D. Parker, Wewoka. Another discussion group on "James Crow in Uniform" was led by S. Watson Jennings, president of the Muskogee youth council, with Clara Hibler, Langston University college chapter; James Burton, Wewoka; and Queen Esther Penn, Oklahoma City, participating.

The highlight of the conference was a brilliant address on "Beginning a New Crusade" by E. Frederic Morrow, coordinator of N.A.A.C.P. branches, from the national office. The conference closed with timely remarks by Roscoe Dunjee, president of the State Conference, and editor of the *Black Dispatch*.

The Oklahoma youth councils enjoyed the cooperation and support of the State Conference, the Wewoka Ministerial Alliance, Seminole County Schools, and the Wewoka Junior Chamber of Commerce.

"On to Richmond"

The first Call to the Youth Section of the 30th Annual Conference in Richmon, Va. June 27–July 2 has resulted in many favorable replies to date. Councils and college chapters are busy completing apportionments in order that they may appear on the conference honor roll. Others are engaged in money-raising activities such as dances, parties, socials and the like to defray the expenses of their delegates.

A large delegation of youth is expected at Richmond, not only from older and firmly established councils, but from the newly organized groups. The first council to report its list of delegates is Chicago, Ill., as follows: Joseph Guinn, president; Sarah Merchant, vice-president; Lavinia Chapman, membership chairman; Mrs. Frances T. Moseley, adviser; Robert Lucas, program and research chairman, and Wadworth Fuller, member at large. If the present membership drive is successful, the remaining nine members of the executive committee will attend.

Rev. Robinson at Cheyney

Rev. James H. Robinson, Acting Youth Director of the N.A.A.C.P., spoke to the members of the Cheyney, Pa. college chapter at chapel exercises recently. This meeting concludes a series of eight, with each class of the college sponsoring two meetings. Miss Evangeline Hall, sponsor and Richard Thomas, president, have worked very hard toward the success of the chapter, and much credit is due the members who rallied to their support.

Spring Membership Campaigns

The following youth councils have reported successful membership campaigns; Springfield, Mass.; Louisville, Ky.; Boston, Mass.; Buffalo and Brooklyn, N. Y.; Houston and San Antonio, Texas, and Montclair, N. J.

Negro Scientists

(*Continued from page* 169)

president of South Carolina State College, *R. R. Taylor*, Tuskegee Institute, *Howard H. Mackey*, head of the department of architecture, Howard university, and *John A. Lankford*, Washington, D. C.

George Maceo Jones, associate professor of architecture, Howard university, earned the degree doctor of philosophy in civil engineering, University of Michigan, 1934. Dr. Jones' studies in indeterminate structures, with special regard to wind stresses in tall buildings, have been of real merit.

David N. Crosthwait Jr., consulting engineer, member of several engineering founder societies, organized and directed a research organization which developed the method of sub-atmospheric steam heating now used to heat the thirty and forty story towers of Radio City in New York. The principle developed now is in use in some of the recent important buildings of Canada, England, Japan and Poland, as well as in this country. Much of the information which originated in that organization now has been embodied in the current heating and ventilating texts or reference books. Mr. Crosthwait had about 20 United States patents to his credit, most of which are in industrial use.

Famous Inventions

The most complete factual information on Negro inventors the writer has had the privilege of reviewing is found in the library of John A. Lankford, architect, Washington, D. C. Many of the records compiled by *Henry E. Baker*, during a period of nearly a half century's service as assistant United States patent examiner, are represented in this collection. These inventions represent contributions to practically every field of activity. Perhaps best known of these inventors is *Granville T. Woods*, who for many years was associated with Thomas Edison. Mr. Woods has more than 50 patents to his credit. Whenever you use a telephone you make use of improvements designed and patented by him.

When the street car motorman electrically throws a switch, there is Woods. The transmission of messages from moving trains by static conduction; magnetic brake apparatus; improvements in relay instruments used in telegraphy and many other useful devices have been contributed by Woods. In 1872 *Elijah McCoy* of Detroit, Michigan, invented the original automatic steam lubricator, which made possible the building of high

(*Continued on page* 189)

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Responding to frequent inquiries, THE CRISIS carries herewith the names and addresses with telephone numbers of some of the 1300 colored attorneys in the United States, purely as a service to those seeking such information. THE CRISIS does not maintain a legal bureau, as many readers seem to think, and the N.A.A.C.P. concerns itself only with cases involving color discrimination, segregation or denial of citizenship rights. Lawyers whose names do not appear below are requested to write to THE CRISIS.

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Negro Scientists

(*Continued from page* 187)

pressure steam engines. At one time these were in general use on locomotives of leading railway companies of the Northwest, steamers on the Great Lakes and in manufacturing plants throughout the country.

Jan E. Matzeliger gave to the world a machine for lasting shoes which inaugurated a new era in the shoe industry. Within twenty years following the formation of the United Shoe Machinery Company, purchasers of Matzeliger's patent, American shoe manufacture increased from 220,000,000 to over 400,000,000 while export of American shoes increased from 1,000,000 to 11,000,000, traced principally to the new American machines founded on the Matzeliger type.

Northert Rillieux in 1846 invented and patented a vacuum pan, which revolutionized the method of refining sugar. He also developed a practical sewer system for the City of New Orleans.

The simple golf tee (now preferred by most golf enthusiasts) which obviates the use of conical mounds of sand or similar material formed by the fingers, was invented and patented by *George F. Grant* of Boston, Massachusetts, in 1899.

The simple mopholder found in every American home and which can be purchased today at any five and ten cent store in this country was invented and patented in 1893 by *Thomas W. Stewart*. Over 2,000 patents on inventions have been obtained by Negroes. Because of trade secrets; insufficient finance to promote their activities; lack of adequate legal counsel; by law, as was the case during slavery, or for other reasons, many contributions by Negroes to progress and culture will remain lost to history.

In concluding this paper the writer realizes that he has touched but briefly here and there bits from chapters which might be written on the subject of "Contributions of Negro Scientists to Progress and Culture." With the increasing grants of municipal, state and Federal aid to education; with the increasing truly scientific attitude on the part of national founder societies toward membership qualifications, and the examination and recognition by industry of all values which may contribute to its economic growth, the progress and culture of future generations will attain far greater heights than today's spotlight might seem to reveal as one trains it on the past, surveys the present or pierces the years which are to come.

Book Review

Race Against Man. By Herbert J. Seligmann, with an introduction by Franz Boas. G. P. Putnam's Sons. New York. $2.75.

Plunging undaunted into the mazes of a subject which, even to leading scientist offers complexities, Mr. Seligmann fights his way through to a scholarly success. Throughout his book he shows real skill in bringing his position on the crucial points in accord with modern scientific findings. He presents to readers a great deal of the evidence gathered by science in the fields of biology, anthropology, archeology and history, on the history of Race. His work offers as his advertisers so well state, "a readable and authentic basis for judgment on this controversial question which threatens to destroy civilization today."

The vague concept of race has haunted many civilizations. Today people are still

(*Continued on next page*)

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—Policies in force: 1,643,125
—Ordinary Insurance: $80,106,234
—Industrial Insurance: $181,961,766.63.
—Health and Accident Insurance: $26,895,069.37
—Employment: 8,150 Negroes
—Policies issued and Revived in 1936: $174,112,773.00
—Increased business, 1936: $65,645,466
—Increase in policies, 1936: 251,047

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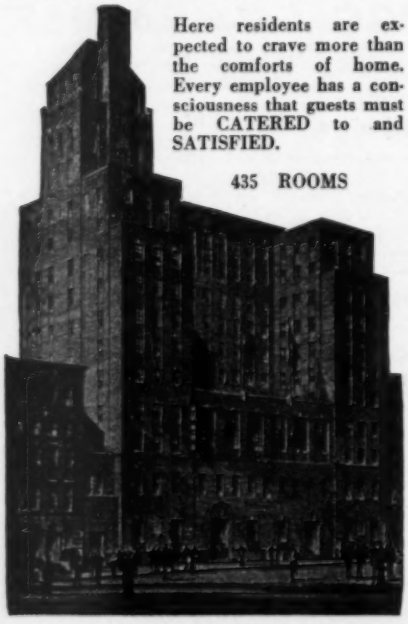

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Book Review

(*Continued from page* 189)

centuries behind in their understanding of the degrading effect of race propaganda disseminated through the years by earlier generations of race enthusiasts. Prejudices against the colored races still find breeding places even in our schools, colleges, churches and business enterprises. Therefore, intelligent people should welcome with enthusiasm this splendid work which so logically shows that, "historic background is the determinant of social behavior and that behavior changes with social status."

This notable book comes at an auspicious time when the racist doctrines of totalitarian states threatens to undermine the very roots of reasons and civilization. Mr. Seligmann exposes the assinity of these doctrines and traces them to their roots in German philosophy, laying bare the contradictions and absurdities which have and are being used in the conflict against democratic philosophies.

To the Negro scholar, teacher, leader, politician, social worker, professional, or layman, this book should serve as a bulwark against those pseudo doctrines of and about race which have shackled the progress of the Negro race in America. Mr. Seligmann thoroughly explores the doctrines arising out of Negro slavery, and as thoroughly explodes them. The component chapter is the one discussing the present plight of the Jew, tracing his difficulties back to the origins of anti-Semitism in the ancient and medieval world.

Mr. Seligmann is a gifted author in his own right. No higher recommendation need be given of his latest book than to state that it has been prepared under the auspices of Dr. Franz Boas, the famous anthropologist. It should be a "must" book for every man and woman who reads.

E. FREDERIC MORROW

College and School News

(*Continued from page* 165)

degree. The Curriculum Laboratory will again work in conjunction with a similar organization at Peabody College, Nashville.

The Lucy E. Moten Fellowship Committee at Howard University has just announced the award of five fellowships to Howard students for travel and study in the U. S. and abroad. Dr. Moten, late Miner Teachers College president, left a bequest of $51,434 for this purpose. This is the first time in the history of higher Negro education that a Negro in a Negro college has been given an appreciable amount for travel and study. Sums given for travel range from $400 to $750. Fortunate candidates are Martha B. Kendrick, Myron A. Higgins, Hortense W. Thompson, Arthur F. Carter, Frederick J. Bradley and Julia A. Brooks (alternate).

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